DANGEROUS MYSTERIES...BREATHLESS SUSPENSE!

MAN COMICS

A BIG 52 PAGE MAGAZINE!

No. 7

APRIL

10¢

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

MOMENT OF GLORY!

ONE MUST LOSE!

I WAS A "FALL GUY"!

THE GUILTY!

WHY DID "BLACK JIM" CHAINE HAVE TO KILL? DON'T MISS THIS STRANGE, TWO-FISTED TALE OF A MAN WHO LIVED WITH DEATH!

THE KILLER!

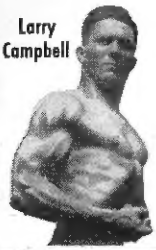
MONK, YOU FOOL! STOP HOUNDING ME! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU! YOU'RE NOT WORTH WASTING GOOD BULLETS ON!

YOU'RE A PHONY, BLACK JIM! YOU'VE KILLED OTHER MEN BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID OF YOU... BUT I'M NOT AFRAID! NOW TURN AROUND...

BARBER

Which of these 2 one time WEAKLINGS paid only a Few Cents to become an "All-Around" HE-MAN at Home?

WHICH ONE PAID HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS TO TRAIN AT MY SIDE?


Larry Campbell

Rex Ferris

Rex Ferris, like you, paid only a few cents to start building into a champion all around He Man!

Rex mailed me a coupon as below. He was a skinny bag of bones. Today he is tops in athletics, strength, business.

Larry Campbell paid me hundreds of dollars to train at my side years ago. Now you can start building into an All Around He Man right at home with these same progressive power secrets for only a few cents—just as Rex Ferris did!

AMAZING get acquainted offer! ... Now All 5 Famous Jowett Complete Muscle Building Courses

YOUR LAST CHANCE only 10c Instead of $1.00

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Let's Go, Pal! I'll prove I can make YOU too an "ALL-AROUND" HE-MAN

FAST—or it won't cost you a cent—

says George F Jowett - World's Greatest Body Builder

HOW YOU CAN BE A *WINNER* AT ANYTHING YOU TACKLE WITH *PROGRESSIVE POWER*

WHAM
DARLING, THAT BULLY WON'T PICK ON YOU AGAIN.
JOE WALLOPED ANOTHER HOMER! HE'S SURE TO BE CAPTAIN NOW!
JOE YOUR NEW ENERGY AND APPEARANCE SURE DO A GOOD JOB! YOU EARNED YOUR PROMOTION

PROVE IT TO YOURSELF IN ONE NIGHT

Send only 10c for my 5 easy-to-follow, picture-packed courses now in 1 complete volume "How to Become a Muscular He-Man." Try it for one night. Experience the thrilling strength that surges through your muscles.

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THE FALL GUY

A BLOW ON THE HEAD CAN DO MANY THINGS! IT CAN KILL A MAN... OR IT CAN CRIPPLE HIM FOR LIFE... OR IT CAN DAMAGE HIS BRAIN SO THAT HE BECOMES A FALL GUY! I RECEIVED SUCH A BLOW ON THE HEAD... AND THIS IS MY STORY...
IT HAPPENED IN NEW YORK CITY IN 1947!
WHAT'S THE GUN FOR, IF ALL YOU WANT ME TO DO IS CARRY DIRTY TOWELS? AND WHY IS IT SMOKING?
JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD, STUPID! STICK THIS BUNDLE OF TOWELS INTO YOUR SACK AND MEET ME AT THE HIDEOUT!
STEP ON IT, FRANKIE! THIS PLACE'LL BE CRAWLIN' WITH COPS IN A MINUTE!
KING JEWELRY CO.
TO ELEVATOR
A TRUE-LIFE THRILLER WRITTEN AND DRAWN ESPECIALLY FOR MAN COMICS!
HENKEL

I GUESS I'M THE DUMBEST CLUCK WHO EVER LIVED! I CAN'T EVEN CHISEL A FREE RIDE ON THE SUBWAY WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT!
HEY! YOU'VE GOT A NERVE! OFFICER, GET THAT GOON!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THESE TRUE-TO-LIFE STORIES ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THESE STORIES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

AT THE NEXT STOP, I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM THE POLICE... THAT'S HOW IT WAS ALL MY LIFE... ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS FIGHTING AND RUNNING...
BUT NOW I HAD A PLACE TO RUN TO... A 14 KARAT BLONDE NAMED GLORIA EVANS...
I CAN SHAKE THESE COPS BY TAKING THIS SHORT-CUT TO GLORIA'S!
BAM!
POST NO BILLS
DANNY FENNER! WELL, HELLO! COME RIGHT IN! MISS EVANS WILL SURE BE GLAD TO SEE YOU!
HI, MARGIE!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME, HANDSOME? HAVE THE COPS BEEN CHASING YOU AGAIN? PUT YOUR STRONG ARMS AROUND ME AND TELL YOUR GLORIA!
YEAH! SURE, GLORIA! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS!
POOR GUY... WHAT A SUCKER!
THE COPS ARE GONE NOW! I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING NICE FOR HIDING ME, BABY!
YEAH, SOMETHING REAL NICE, DANNY... LIKE A PEARL NECKLACE! YOU WANT TO MAKE ME LOOK GOOD, DON'T YOU, DANNY?
I HIT THE STREET AGAIN, BUT I WAS BROKE! HOW COULD I GET THE THINGS GLORIA WANTED WHEN I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A DIME FOR A SUBWAY RIDE...
C'MON, YOU MUGGS! FADE ME!
A CRAP GAME... THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BUILD UP A ROLL IN A HURRY! I'LL GET INTO THE GAME WITH THIS TRINKET!
2

CAN I BUST INTO THIS GAME, BUDDY? I GOT A RING THAT SHOULD BE WORTH A COUPLE OF BUCKS!
SURE! WE'LL EACH TOSS IN TWO BUCKS TO COVER YOU! ROLL 'EM!
I SEEN HIM AROUND! HE'S A CHUMP! SLIP IN THE LOADED DICE, FREDDY... WE'LL TAKE HIS RING!
FOUR! THAT'S AN EASY POINT TO MAKE!
FOUR IT IS, MY FRIEND! AND HERE'S YOUR DICE... ROLL 'EM AGAIN!
SEVEN! YOU LOSE!
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU CAN'T TAKE MY RING! THAT'S ALL I GOT! GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE!
WE WON IT, SUCKER! NOW GET OUTA HERE!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!
BEFORE I KNEW IT, MY FISTS WERE BEATING HIS LEERING FACE TO A PULP...
GET HIM! AAG!
NO YOU DON'T!
TAKE THIS WISE GUY!
HIT HIM AGAIN! AGAIN!
OOF!
IT'S A PLEASURE!
3

BEFORE MY BLURRING EYES MY TORMENTOR TOOK ON THE APPEARANCE OF A BLACK DISSOLVING MASS...

AGAIN HE STRUCK ME, AND AGAIN... UNTIL MY MIND SEEMED TO SHRINK BACK INTO MY SUBCONSCIENCE!

AFTER WHICH I WAS PULLED DOWN THE BOTTOMLESS WELL OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS!

WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS BEING DRAGGED TO MY FEET BY TWO BURLY POLICEMEN...

THIS IS THE GUY WHO WE WERE LOOKING FOR!

LET'S GO, BUDDY!

THAT CRACK ON MY HEAD REDUCED MY LIMITED MENTALITY TO THAT OF A MORON... THO I COULDN'T REALIZE THAT AT THE TIME!

YOU SAY THAT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT INTO THAT FIGHT, OR WHY THE POLICE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU? I CHARGE YOU WITH VAGRANCY AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT! A MONTH IN THE WORKHOUSE SHOULD REFRESH YOUR MEMORY!

I GOT A HEADACHE!

A MONTH SLIPPED BY AND I WAS FREED...

OH, IT'S YOU! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, DANNY?

I DUNNO! I REMEMBER THE COPS GOT ME AND I WAS SENT SOMEPLACE TO DIG... THAT'S IT... I WAS DIGGING AND I COULDN'T GET AWAY TO SEE YOU... A CLOUT ON THE HEAD MADE ME FORGET HOW TO WRITE! THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T...

HUH? YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T EVEN WRITE YOUR NAME ANY MORE, DANNY?

I GOT ANOTHER HEADACHE, GLORIA! I HAVE TO LIE DOWN AND REST!

WAIT'LL FRANKIE VELVET HEARS ABOUT THIS... WHAT A BREAK FOR HIM!

HEY, FRANKIE! THIS IS THE BIG DOPE I BEEN TELLIN' YOU ABOUT! MEET DANNY FENNER!

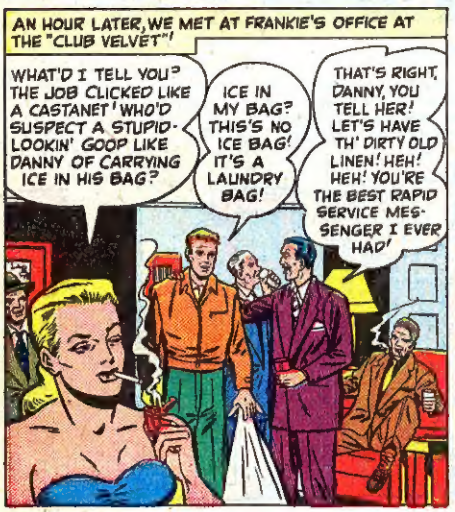
WHO'S THAT GUY, GLORIA?

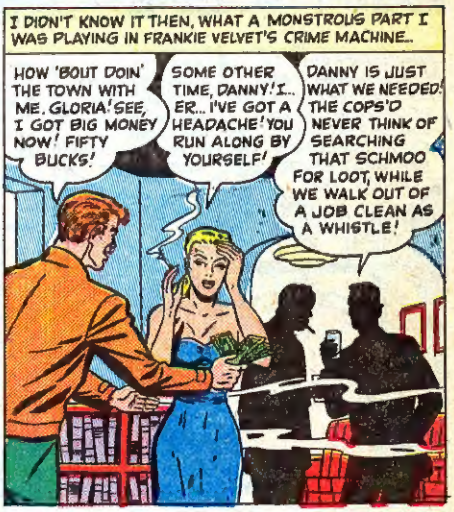
I'M HER UNCLE, PAL! SIT DOWN... I'M GONNA MAKE YOU A SMART PROPOSITION!

HOW'D YA LIKE TO MAKE FIFTY BUCKS A WEEK FOR DOING PRACTICALLY NOTHING? JUST CARRY A PACKAGE OR TWO, OR MAYBE A ROD.. FOR THE BOYS IN MY GANG!
A ROD? WHY SHOULD I CARRY A ROD? ARE YOU IN THE CURTAIN BUSINESS?
ER... CURTAIN BUSINESS, HONEY!
GLORIA IS ONLY KIDDING, DANNY... I'M IN THE...UH... RAPID EXPRESS BUSINESS! SOMETIMES YOU'LL CARRY VALUABLE PROPERTY AND MUST PROTECT YOURSELF!
YOU WANT A GOOD SALARY TO TAKE ME OUT WITH, DON'T YOU? THEN YOU CAN BUY ME ORCHIDS AND PERFUME!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL WORK FOR YOUR UNCLE, IF YOU WANT ME TO!
DID I EXAGGERATE HIS STUPIDITY? AIN'T HE THE DUMBEST THING ON TWO FEET? IMAGINE! HE THINKS YOU'RE MY UNCLE! THAT CLOUT ON THE HEAD PUTS HIM RIGHT WHERE WE WANT HIM!
HE'S GOT TO BE DUMB TO DO THE THINGS WE'RE PLANNING FOR HIM, BABY! CALL THE GANG TOGETHER, WE HAVE WORK TO DO!
THAT NIGHT...
I'M ADDING THE BIGGEST SAP IN TOWN TO OUR MOB! THE ORIGINAL SUCKER! A 14 CARAT GILT-EDGED FALL GUY!
AND WE'RE STARTING HIM ON THAT ICE JOB WE'VE WORKED OUT FOR TOMORROW MORNING!
NEXT MORNING...
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PICK UP A BAG OF DIRTY TOWELS! THIS JOB IS EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!
KING JEWEL
2ND FLOOR
36
INSIDE THE JEWELRY STORE...
WHAT A HAUL! MUST BE WORTH FIFTY GRAND!
LOOK OUT BOSS, THAT ONE'S GOING FOR AN ALARM!
HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT, THE FOOL!
BANG! BANG!
UGGHHHH!
5

HERE YOU ARE! NOW TAKE THIS SACK AND THIS GUN AND PUT IT INSIDE YOUR LAUNDRY BAG!
WHAT'S THE GUN FOR, IF ALL THAT'S IN THE BAG IS DIRTY TOWELS?
TO ELEVATOR

LOOK, CHUMP, DON'T TRY TO GET SMART ALL AT ONCE... YOU'LL HURT YOUR BRAINS! JUST GO DOWN THE BACK STAIRS! PRETEND YOU'RE A TOWEL SUPPLY MAN... THEN MEET ME AT MY OFFICE!
ALRIGHT, BUT I DON'T GET IT, FRANKIE! I DON'T GET IT AT ALL!
TO STAIRS


AN HOUR LATER, WE MET AT FRANKIE'S OFFICE AT THE "CLUB VELVET"!
WHAT'D I TELL YOU? THE JOB CLICKED LIKE A CASTANET! WHO'D SUSPECT A STUPID-LOOKIN' GOOP LIKE DANNY OF CARRYING ICE IN HIS BAG?
ICE IN MY BAG? THIS'S NO ICE BAG! IT'S A LAUNDRY BAG!
THAT'S RIGHT, DANNY, YOU TELL HER! LET'S HAVE TH' DIRTY OLD LINEN! HEH! HEH! YOU'RE THE BEST RAPID SERVICE MESSENGER I EVER HAD!


I DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN, WHAT A MONSTROUS PART I WAS PLAYING IN FRANKIE VELVET'S CRIME MACHINE...
HOW 'BOUT DOIN' THE TOWN WITH ME, GLORIA! SEE, I GOT BIG MONEY NOW! FIFTY BUCKS!
SOME OTHER TIME, DANNY! I... ER... I'VE GOT A HEADACHE! YOU RUN ALONG BY YOURSELF!
DANNY IS JUST WHAT WE NEEDED! THE COPS'D NEVER THINK OF SEARCHING THAT SCHMOO FOR LOOT, WHILE WE WALK OUT OF A JOB CLEAN AS A WHISTLE!

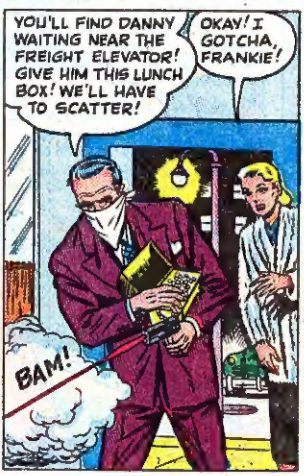
FOR WEEKS I WAS DOING ALL KINDS OF "JOBS" FOR GLORIA'S UNCLE...
STICK THE DOUGH IN THESE ENVELOPES, QUICK!
YESTERDAY, I WAS A TELEGRAPH MESSENGER... TODAY I'M A LETTER CARRIER! I GUESS I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT KINDA BUSINESS I'M IN!

WHO'S GOING TO LOOK FOR ICE IN MILK BOTTLES?
BUT I AIN'T GOT NO EXPERIENCE AS A MILKMAN!
YOU DON'T NEED ANY... JUST YOU BRING THESE BOTTLES TO MY OFFICE TOMORROW MORNING!
MILK
I HOPE DANNY DOESN'T RUPTURE HIMSELF CARRYING THIS ASTERVELT SILVER!
GOLLY... HATS LIKE THESE MUST BE MADE OUT OF LEAD (GASP!)
HATS

MY NUMBED BRAIN WAS TOO WEAK TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON...I COULD ONLY DO WHAT I WAS TOLD..
FANCY MEETING YOU, FRANKIE! FIVE MINUTES AFTER A JEWELRY STICK-UP IN THIS BUILDING! SEARCH HIM!
JUST A COINCIDENCE, BOYS!
I WONDER IF THEY'RE LOOKIN' FOR THAT SEAL-SKIN PACKAGE FRANKIE PUT IN MY PAIL? I'LL ASK HIM ABOUT IT LATER!

THEN, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CRIME WAVE...
MAY I SEE THAT BRACELET, PLEASE?
GLORIA'S DOING A NICE DECOY JOB!
DON'T LOOK AT THE BRACELET, SISTER! LOOK THIS WAY! RAISE 'EM HIGH EVERYBODY... THIS IS A STICK-UP!

GET AWAY FROM THAT ALARM! OKAY, MISTER... YOU ASKED FOR IT!
OHHH!
CLANG!
BANG!

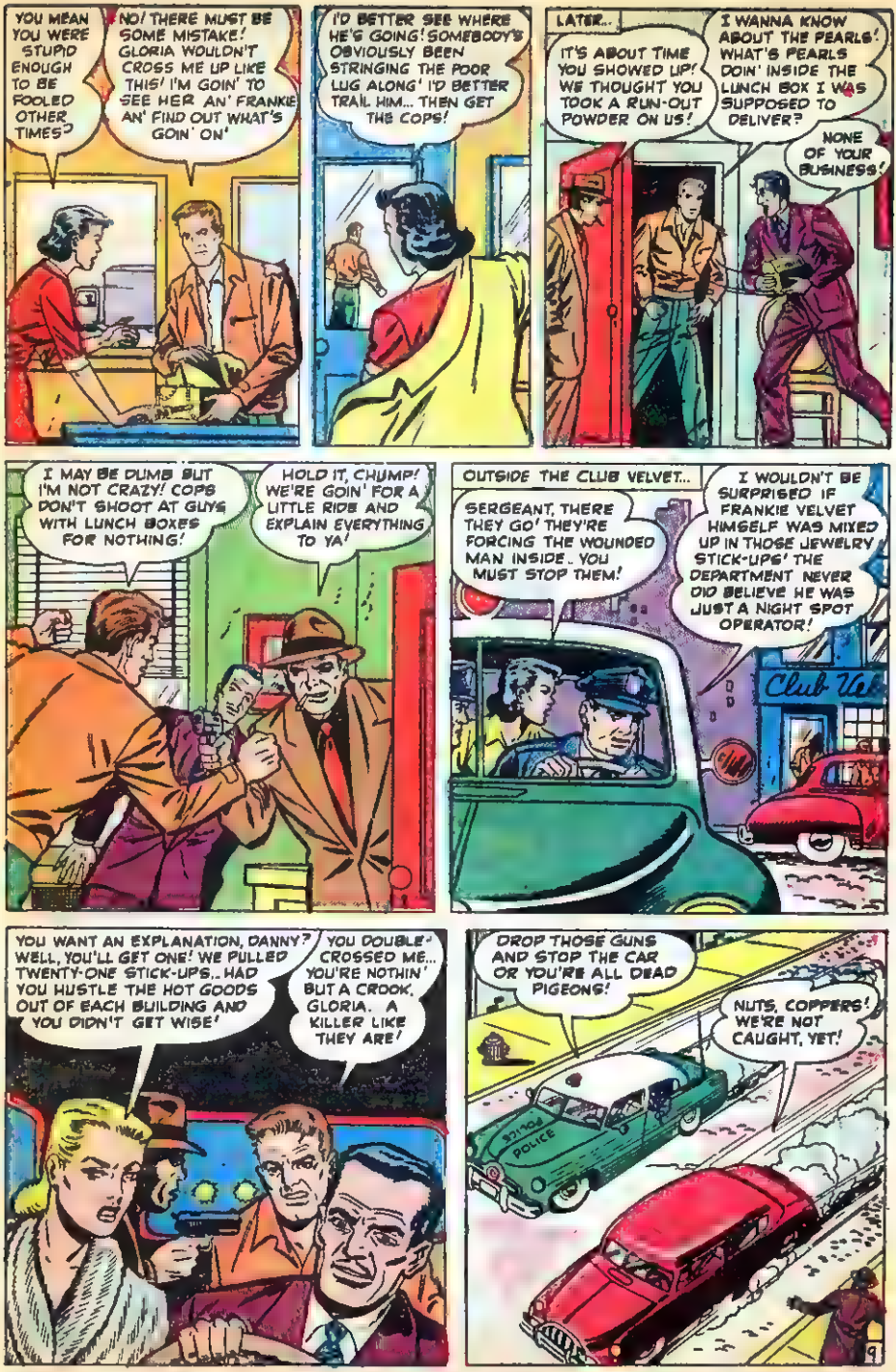

YOU'LL FIND DANNY WAITING NEAR THE FREIGHT ELEVATOR! GIVE HIM THIS LUNCH BOX! WE'LL HAVE TO SCATTER!
OKAY! I GOTCHA, FRANKIE!
BAM!

HELLO, HONEY! THE BOSS WANTS YOU TO TAKE THIS LUNCH BOX TO HIS OFFICE!
GLORIA! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN YOUR UNCLE'S RAPID DELIVERY BUSINESS!
FREIGHT ELE

THE CHIEF SAID TO COVER EVERY EXIT!
WAIT! LOOK AT THAT GUY! LOOK WHAT'S STICKING OUT OF HIS LUNCH BOX! HE'S NO WORKER! HE'S A CROOK!
IGHT ELEVATOR

STOP, YOU, OR WE'LL FIRE!
HE'S GETTING AWAY! LET HIM HAVE IT!
I CAN'T STOP! FRANKIE SAID THAT NO MATTER WHO WANTS TO SEE WHAT I'M CARRYIN' I SHOULDN'T LET HIM ... NOT EVEN A COP!
BANG

ONCE AGAIN I WAS RUNNING... AND FALLING AND RUNNING AGAIN... THEN I FELT A PAIN IN MY SHOULDER...
ONCE I'M OVER THIS FENCE, I'LL BE SAFE! I... OWWW!
WE HIT HIM!
I KEPT RIGHT ON GOING UNTIL...
I LOST 'EM! (GASP!) I WONDER WHY THEY WERE SHOOTING AT ME! GOSH, I NEVER DID ANYTHING AGAINST THE LAW... EXCEPT THAT TIME I TRIED TO STEAL A SUBWAY RIDE! I'LL STOP AT THAT DINER AN' CALL FRANKIE AT THE OFFICE...
JAN'S DINER
...WHERE'S TH' PHONE? I GOTTA MAKE A CALL!
IN THE BACK... BUT YOU'RE HURT, MISTER! YOU'RE BLEEDING!
ATTENTION... ALL PERSONS IN THE EAST END! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A WOUNDED MAN CARRYING A LUNCH BOX BELIEVED FILLED WITH STOLEN GEMS!
WHERE ARE YOU, YOU NITWIT? WHERE'S THAT LUNCH BOX YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DELIVER?
I GOT IT! BUT THE COPS SHOT AT ME! WHY'D THEY DO THAT? COPS NEVER SHOOT AT ANY-ONE WHO DON'T BREAK THE LAW!
IF YOU DON'T TELL ME, FRANKIE, I'LL GO TO THE POLICE AN' ASK THEM!
LISTEN, CHUMP... YOU GET OVER HERE FAST! IF YOU AIN'T HERE IN AN HOUR YOU'RE FIRED!
FIRED? THAT GUY SHOULD BE SHOT! HE'S TOO DUMB TO LIVE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BENNY! HE'S ASKING EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS! HE TALKS OF GOING TO THE COPS! HE'S JUST DUMB ENOUGH TO TRY IT... WE'LL ALL WIND UP IN THE HOT SEAT, UNLESS...
I KNOW, BOSS! TAKE THE SAP FOR A RIDE WHEN HE GETS HERE!
MEANWHILE, IN THE DINER...
LOOK, YOU! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! I SAW THAT PEARL NECKLACE HANGING OUT OF YOUR LUNCH BOX! I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE! SO GIT!
PEARLS? (GASP!) WHAT PEARLS? I DIDN'T KNOW... NO WONDER THE POLICE SHOT AT ME!
YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A ROBBERY?
NO! I'M NO CROOK! BUT IF THIS LUNCH BOX IS FULL OF PEARLS, MAYBE THE HAT BOXES, THE LETTER BAG, THE WASHPAILS... MAYBE THEY WERE FULL OF THINGS A COP WOULD SHOOT ABOUT, TOO!
8


YOU MEAN YOU WERE STUPID ENOUGH TO BE FOOLED OTHER TIMES?
NO! THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! GLORIA WOULDN'T CROSS ME UP LIKE THIS! I'M GOIN' TO SEE HER AN' FRANKIE AN' FIND OUT WHAT'S GOIN' ON!
I'D BETTER SEE WHERE HE'S GOING! SOMEBODY'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN STRINGING THE POOR LUG ALONG! I'D BETTER TRAIL HIM... THEN GET THE COPS!
LATER...
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP! WE THOUGHT YOU TOOK A RUN-OUT POWDER ON US!
I WANNA KNOW ABOUT THE PEARLS! WHAT'S PEARLS DOIN' INSIDE THE LUNCH BOX I WAS SUPPOSED TO DELIVER?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
I MAY BE DUMB BUT I'M NOT CRAZY! COPS DON'T SHOOT AT GUYS WITH LUNCH BOXES FOR NOTHING!
HOLD IT, CHUMP! WE'RE GOIN' FOR A LITTLE RIDE AND EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YA!
OUTSIDE THE CLUB VELVET...
SERGEANT, THERE THEY GO! THEY'RE FORCING THE WOUNDED MAN INSIDE.. YOU MUST STOP THEM!
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF FRANKIE VELVET HIMSELF WAS MIXED UP IN THOSE JEWELRY STICK-UPS! THE DEPARTMENT NEVER DID BELIEVE HE WAS JUST A NIGHT SPOT OPERATOR!
Club Ve
YOU WANT AN EXPLANATION, DANNY? WELL, YOU'LL GET ONE! WE PULLED TWENTY-ONE STICK-UPS.. HAD YOU HUSTLE THE HOT GOODS OUT OF EACH BUILDING AND YOU DIDN'T GET WISE!
YOU DOUBLE-CROSSED ME... YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT A CROOK, GLORIA. A KILLER LIKE THEY ARE!
DROP THOSE GUNS AND STOP THE CAR OR YOU'RE ALL DEAD PIGEONS!
NUTS, COPPERS! WE'RE NOT CAUGHT, YET!
POLICE
9

THE GANGSTERS' CAR ROARED AHEAD AND THE POLICE OPENED UP WITH TOMMY GUNS...
LET 'EM HAVE IT!
RAT-TAT-TAT! TAT-TAT!
AHHHHH!
P.D.
CRASH!
DON'T ARREST THIS MAN, SERGEANT.. HE WAS DUPED BY THE GANG! I'LL LOOK AFTER HIM!
I WON'T PROMISE YOU THAT, MISS, BUT IF HE TESTIFIES AGAINST THIS MOB WE'LL GIVE HIM AN EVEN BREAK!
ONCE AGAIN I CAME OUT OF THAT BOTTOMLESS WELL OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS..
MY SENSE OF REASONING RETURNED WITH IT AND A BLINDING RAGE FILLED MY BEING, AS I REMEMBERED ONE WORD. CHUMP!
YOU HAD YOUR FUN "UNCLE" FRANKIE! NOW IT'S MY TURN!
GEE, HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME OUT? IF YOU HADN'T FOLLOWED ME AND CALLED THE COPS... I'D BE A DEAD DUCK NOW!
OH, BUT I HAD TO DO SOMETHING ... I COULD TELL THAT YOU WERE INNOCENT!
A SHORT TIME LATER, MY RUNNING DAYS WERE OVER FOREVER..
TONIGHT THE NOTORIOUS KILLER, FRANKIE VELVET DIED IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR...
WHO'S DUMB NOW, MRS. DANNY FENNER? ME, LEARNING TO RUN A DINER, OR 'UNCLE' FRANKIE, LEARNING ABOUT THE HOT SEAT, FIRST HAND?
THE END
10

SUBSCRIBE NOW! $1.00 FOR NEXT 12 ISSUES!
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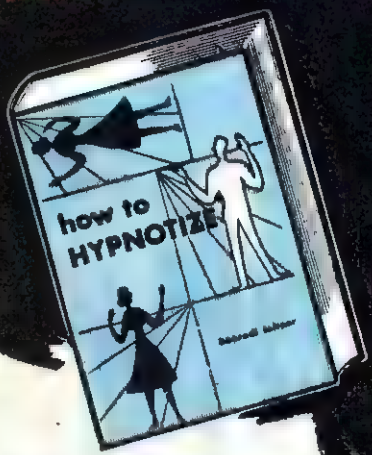
HOW TO HYPNOTIZE



IT'S EASY TO HYPNOTIZE...

when you know how!

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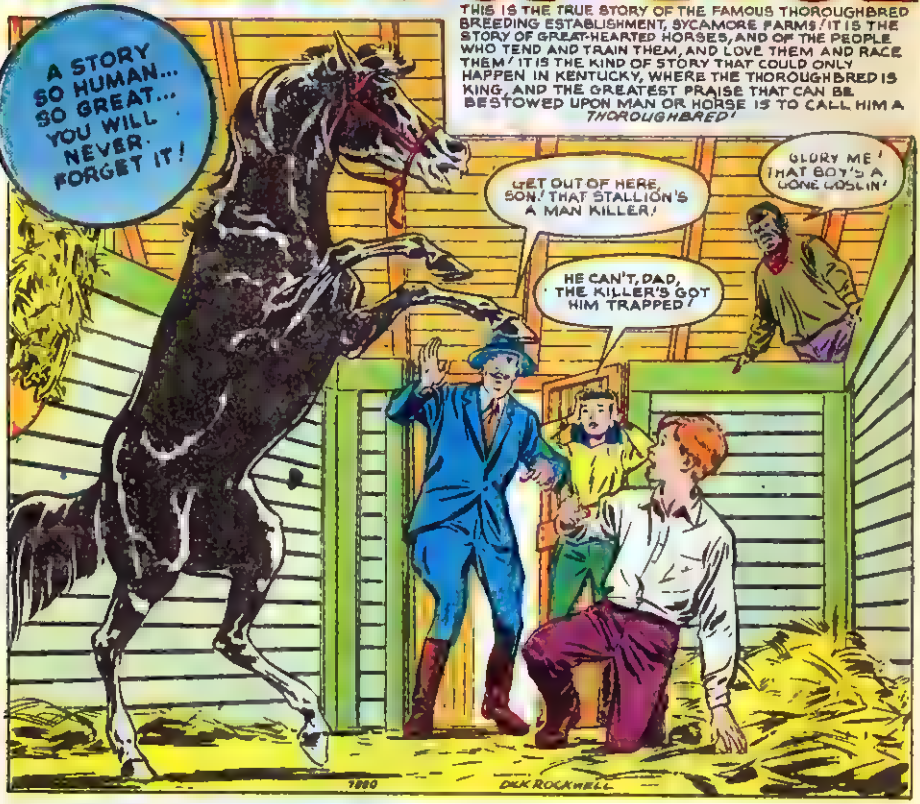
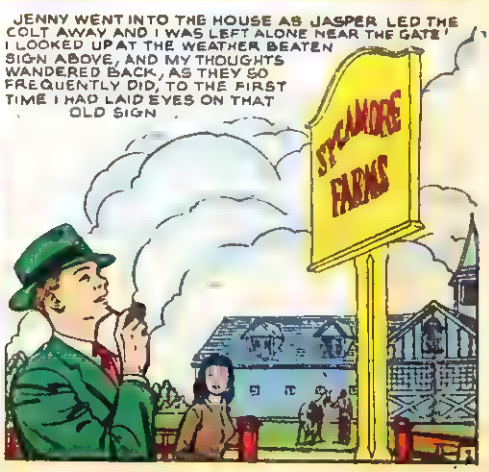
ONE *MUST* LOSE


A STORY SO HUMAN... SO GREAT... YOU WILL NEVER FORGET IT!
THIS IS THE TRUE STORY OF THE FAMOUS THOROUGHBRED BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT, SYCAMORE FARMS! IT IS THE STORY OF GREAT-HEARTED HORSES, AND OF THE PEOPLE WHO TEND AND TRAIN THEM, AND LOVE THEM AND RACE THEM! IT IS THE KIND OF STORY THAT COULD ONLY HAPPEN IN KENTUCKY, WHERE THE THOROUGHBRED IS KING, AND THE GREATEST PRAISE THAT CAN BE BESTOWED UPON MAN OR HORSE IS TO CALL HIM A THOROUGHBRED!
GET OUT OF HERE, SON! THAT STALLION'S A MAN KILLER!
GLORY ME! THAT BOY'S A GONE GOSLIN'
HE CAN'T, DAD, THE KILLER'S GOT HIM TRAPPED!
7880
DICK ROCKWELL

THAT HAPPENED MANY YEARS AGO AND WHEN I SAW THE BLACK COLT BEING LED UP THE PATH IT BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES...
HE SURE IS A LIKELY COLT, AS MISTER DOC WOULD SAY!
HE SURE IS, JASPER! HE'S THE COMET ALL OVER AGAIN!


JENNY WENT INTO THE HOUSE AS JASPER LED THE COLT AWAY AND I WAS LEFT ALONE NEAR THE GATE! I LOOKED UP AT THE WEATHER BEATEN SIGN ABOVE, AND MY THOUGHTS WANDERED BACK, AS THEY SO FREQUENTLY DID, TO THE FIRST TIME I HAD LAID EYES ON THAT OLD SIGN
SYCAMORE FARMS

IT WAS NIGHT THAT FIRST TIME, AND I WAS A SMALL, HALF-STARVED, 12 YEAR OLD KID, LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SLEEP

NOBODY'S AROUND! I'LL SNEAK IN AND BED DOWN IN SOME STRAW IN ONE OF THE HORSE STALLS! I'M COLD!

EASY, BOY, EASY! I AIN'T GOIN' TO HURT YOU. JUST WANT TO SHARE YOUR STALL TONIGHT! THAT'S THE BOY!

I GUESS I WAS A PRETTY SICK KID AND I DIDN'T KNOW IT! ANYWAY, I DIDN'T AWAKEN IN TIME TO GET AWAY WITHOUT BEING SEEN! THE SUN WAS HIGH WHEN I AWOKE AND THERE WERE A GROUP OF PEOPLE OUTSIDE THAT STALL STARING IN AT ME

SON, WAKE UP! DON'T MOVE, BOY!

WH WHAT?

LISTEN TO ME, AND DON'T MAKE A FALSE MOVE! THAT STALLION IS A KILLER! NOBODY ON THE FARM CAN GET NEAR HIM! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT IN THERE, BUT I AIM TO GET YOU OUT ALIVE! WE'LL GET PITCHFORKS, AND..

SHUCKS, MISTER, THAT HORSE AIN'T NO KILLER! HE'S JUST A BIT HIGH-STRUNG, WHY, I'VE BEEN SLEEPIN' IN HERE ALL NIGHT!

SEE, HIM AND ME GET ALONG FINE!

GOLLY, THAT LI'L WHITE BOY GOT THAT OLE DEVIL HOSS PURRIN' LIKE A KITTEN!

WELL, IF I DIDN'T SEE IT, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!

I...I MEANT TO BE GONE, SIR, BEFORE SUNRISE BEFORE ANYONE SAW ME!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SON, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

GOLLY HE'S THIN, DAD!

I'M CLAY MARSHALL, SIR, AN' AN' OOOH---!

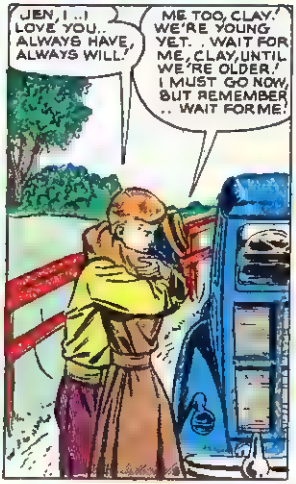
JASPER, GO GET DOCTOR HERSHEY! I'LL CARRY THE LAD TO THE HOUSE!

YES, SUH!

FOR THE SECOND TIME I AWOKE TO SEE THOSE SAME FACES STARING AT ME! I WAS IN A BED, A COOL FRESH BED!
HE'S WAKING UP, DAD!
HOW'RE YOU FEELING, SON?
MUCH BETTER I GUESS!
I, I'VE GOTTA TELL YOU SOMETHING, SIR! I RAN AWAY FROM THE COUNTY ORPHANAGE 3 DAYS AGO.. THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ME AND .
DON'T EXCITE YOURSELF, SON, WE KNOW ALL THAT, ONLY IT WAS TWO WEEKS AGO. YOU'VE BEEN SICK A WHILE, BOY! YOUR FATHER WAS DEVERS MARSHALL, THE FAMOUS JOCKEY, WASN'T HE, SON?
YES, SIR! AFTER PA GOT KILLED IN THAT SPILL AND MA DIED, THEY PUT ME IN THE ORPHANAGE! I COULDN'T STAND TO LIVE WHERE THERE WEREN'T ANY HORSES THAT'S WHY I RAN AWAY!
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, CLAY' SON, I'M DOC CONNELLY THIS IS MY DAUGHTER JENNY, AND YOU'RE AT SYCAMORE FARMS! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY ON HERE AND WORK AROUND THE HORSES? FROM WHAT I SAW THAT FIRST MORNING YOU'LL MAKE A RIGHT SMART STABLE BOY!
AND THAT'S THE WAY IT ALL BEGAN! DOC CONNELLY WAS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS BREEDERS AND TRAINERS OF THOROUGHBREDS IN KENTUCKY, A TRUE GENTLEMAN OF THE SOUTH!
CLAY, NOW THAT YOU'RE UP AND AROUND I WANT YOU TO MEET THE REST OF THE FAMILY! THIS IS MY WIFE, MELISSA, THIS IS THE BOY I SPOKE OF!
CLAY, YOU MUST FORGIVE ME FOR NOT COMING UP TO SEE YOU, BUT I DON'T GET AROUND TOO WELL THIS PAST YEAR! WELCOME TO OUR HOME!
THANK YOU, MRS CONNELLY, MA'AM!
COME ON DOWN TO THE STABLES, CLAY, AND SEE THE COLTS!
GO WITH HER, CLAY, YOU'LL NEED THE SUN AND AIR, AFTER BEING SO ILL!
BYE, MA'AM, AND THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING ME IN YOUR HOUSE!
ISN'T MAMA WONDERFUL! SHE'S BEEN SO SICK THIS PAST YEAR, AND ALL WORRIES OVER HER, DAD LOVES HER SO MUCH, AS THOUGH THEY WERE JUST MARRIED YESTERDAY!
I'VE MISSED SINCE MA DIED!
THE YEARS PASSED SWIFTLY! UNDER DOC'S GUIDANCE I WAS SOON A BUG BOY, AN APPRENTICE JOCKEY, WEARING THE BLUE AND GOLD OF SYCAMORE FARMS!
COME ON, BOY, WE'RE HITTING THE STRETCH LET'S SHOW THESE OTHER BROOMIES THAT OLD SYCAMORE DUST!

NICE RIDE, CLAY! WE'RE GOING TO PACK UP AND HEAD HOME, SON! JENNY'S GOT TO GET READY TO GO AWAY TO SCHOOL!
GOSH! I HATE TO, DAD! I'D RATHER GYPSY AROUND THE TRACKS WITH YOU AND CLAY!

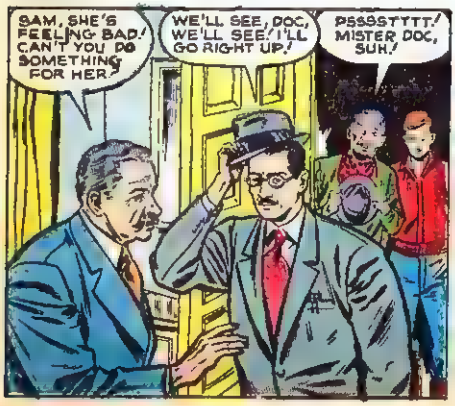
SO WE WENT BACK TO SYCAMORE FARMS! I KNEW THAT JENNY'S GOING TO SCHOOL WAS JUST AN EXCUSE DOC USED NOT TO STAY AWAY TOO LONG FROM THE WOMAN HE LOVED SO MUCH!


JEN, I ..I LOVE YOU.. ALWAYS HAVE, ALWAYS WILL!
ME TOO, CLAY! WE'RE YOUNG YET. . WAIT FOR ME, CLAY, UNTIL WE'RE OLDER! I MUST GO NOW, BUT REMEMBER .. WAIT FOR ME!

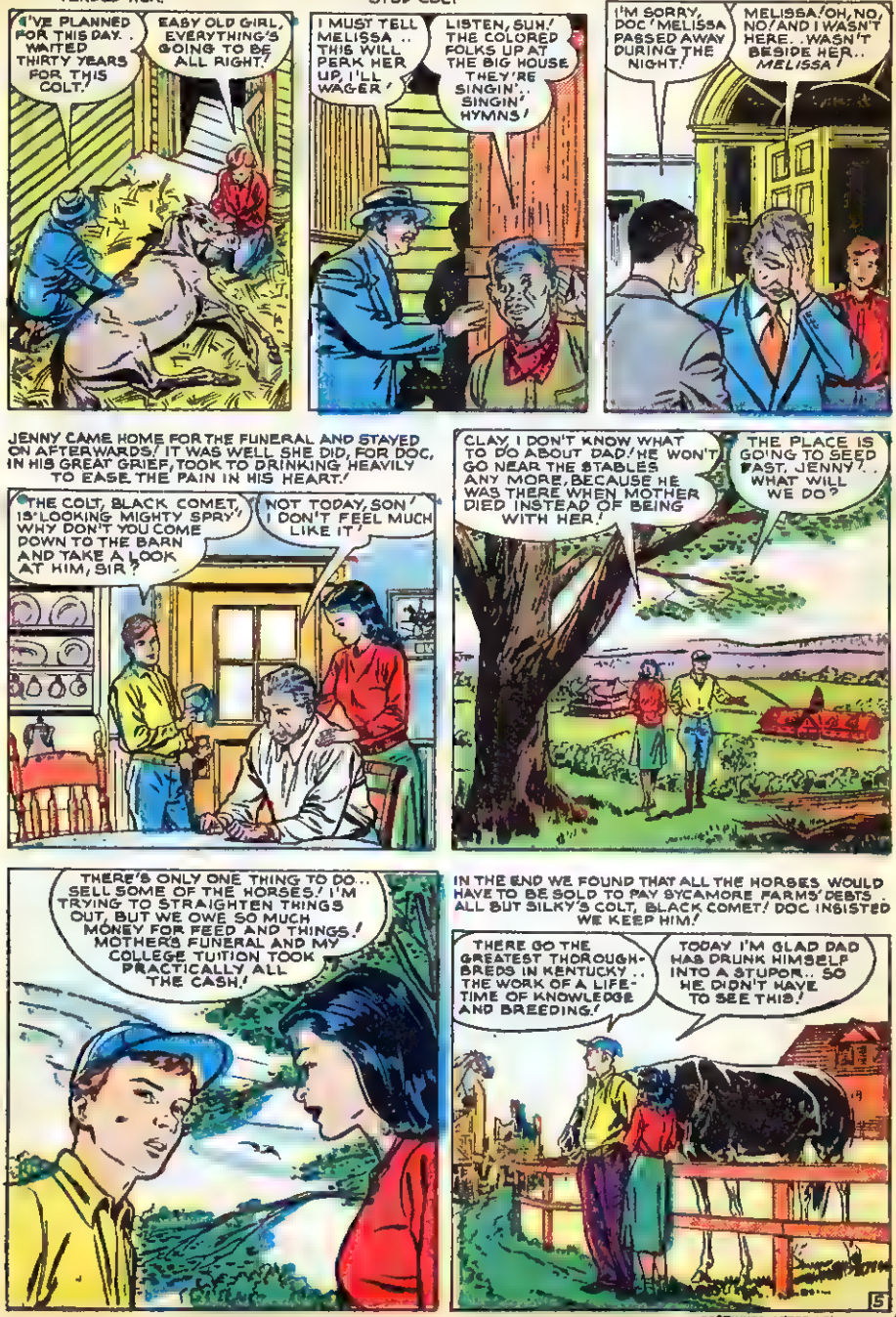
YES, WE WERE GROWING UP, BOTH JENNY AND I! THAT WINTER WHILE I WAITED FOR JENNY TO RETURN, WAS A BUSY ONE! DOC TOLD ME MUCH OF HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

THIS WILL BE THE ONE, CLAY, THE COLT THAT SILKY HAS! SHE'S BRED TO THE DEVIL, THREE PURE GENERATIONS OF SYCAMORE BREEDING! THIS COLT SHE'S GOING TO HAVE WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT THOROUGHBRED STRAIN!
THAT'S THE COLT I WANT TO RIDE, SIR!

BUT THINGS WEREN'T GOING SO WELL IN THE BIG HOUSE! MRS. CONNELLY HAD TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE, AND AS WINTER WORE ON SHE BECAME NO BETTER. .

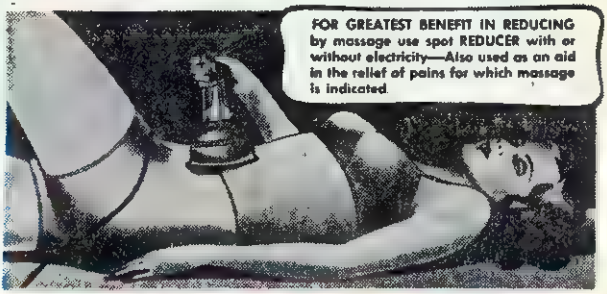


THE SILKY MARE, SUH SHE'S GETTIN' READY TO FOAL AN' LOOKS LIKE SHE MAY HAVE A TIME OF IT! YOU ALL BETTER COME, SUH.
ALL RIGHT, JASPER.. ALL RIGHT!


SILKY'S COLT WAS RELUCTANT TO ENTER THE WORLD, AND THE HOURS SPED BY AS WE SOOTHED AND TENDED HER!
I'VE PLANNED FOR THIS DAY.. WAITED THIRTY YEARS FOR THIS COLT!
EASY OLD GIRL, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!
THEN AS THE FIRST STREAKS OF DAWN SHOWED, THE COLT WAS BORN! A FINE, STURDY, BLACK STUD COLT!
I MUST TELL MELISSA .. THIS WILL PERK HER UP, I'LL WAGER!
LISTEN, SUH! THE COLORED FOLKS UP AT THE BIG HOUSE THEY'RE SINGIN'.. SINGIN' HYMNS!
WE RAN THROUGH THE DEW-WET GRASS TO THE HOUSE! THE FEAR IN OUR HEARTS A GRINDING ACHE..
I'M SORRY, DOC! MELISSA PASSED AWAY DURING THE NIGHT!
MELISSA! OH, NO, NO! AND I WASN'T HERE.. WASN'T BESIDE HER.. MELISSA!
JENNY CAME HOME FOR THE FUNERAL AND STAYED ON AFTERWARDS! IT WAS WELL SHE DID, FOR DOC, IN HIS GREAT GRIEF, TOOK TO DRINKING HEAVILY TO EASE THE PAIN IN HIS HEART!
THE COLT, BLACK COMET, IS LOOKING MIGHTY SPRY! WHY DON'T YOU COME DOWN TO THE BARN AND TAKE A LOOK AT HIM, SIR?
NOT TODAY, SON! I DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE IT!
CLAY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT DAD! HE WON'T GO NEAR THE STABLES ANY MORE, BECAUSE HE WAS THERE WHEN MOTHER DIED INSTEAD OF BEING WITH HER!
THE PLACE IS GOING TO SEED FAST, JENNY!.. WHAT WILL WE DO?
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO.. SELL SOME OF THE HORSES! I'M TRYING TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT, BUT WE OWE SO MUCH MONEY FOR FEED AND THINGS! MOTHER'S FUNERAL AND MY COLLEGE TUITION TOOK PRACTICALLY ALL THE CASH!
IN THE END WE FOUND THAT ALL THE HORSES WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLD TO PAY SYCAMORE FARMS' DEBTS .. ALL BUT SILKY'S COLT, BLACK COMET! DOC INSISTED WE KEEP HIM!
THERE GO THE GREATEST THOROUGHBREDS IN KENTUCKY .. THE WORK OF A LIFETIME OF KNOWLEDGE AND BREEDING!
TODAY I'M GLAD DAD HAS DRUNK HIMSELF INTO A STUPOR.. SO HE DON'T HAVE TO SEE THIS!
5
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

REDUCE KEEP SLIM AT HOME WITH RELAXING, SOOTHING MASSAGE!

ELECTRIC SPOT REDUCER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SPRING CAME AGAIN, AND WITH IT THE WEEDS THAT OVERGREW THE PASTURE AND THE EMPTY, HOLLOW BARNS. BLACK COMET WAS NOW A GRAND TWO YEAR OLD, AND I BEGAN HIS TRAINING FOR THE TRACK.

CLAY, HAVE YOU SEEN DAD? HE WENT INTO TOWN LAST NIGHT AND I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE.

NO, JEN, I HAVEN'T. MAYBE HE'S IN THAT TRUCK THAT'S DRIVING IN.

DAD, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

HE'S BEEN PLAYING POKER, MISS... AND NOT VERY SUCCESSFULLY. THAT'S THE COLT, TOM... LOAD HIM.

WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH THAT COLT?

I'M TAKIN' HIM, FRIEND. DOC LOST THE COLT AND THE FARM PLAYIN' POKER, AND I WON THE COLT. HE'LL RACE FOR ME FOR EVERY BUCK I CAN GET OUT OF HIM.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I SPENT THE DAY AND THE NIGHT TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO HELP. THE NEXT MORNING WHEN I WENT TO THE HOUSE, DOC AND JENNY WERE GONE. JASPER HANDED ME THE NOTE THEY HAD LEFT.

DEAREST CLAY, DAD AND I ARE GOING AWAY. YOU ARE A GREAT JOCKEY, AND WE DONT WANT TO PULL YOU DOWN WITH US. DON'T TRY TO FIND US. IT'S BEST THIS WAY. ALL THE BEST LUCK TO YOU, MY DEAR JENNY.

DURING THE NEXT YEAR I RODE ON EVERY TRACK IN THE COUNTRY, ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR DOC AND JENNY, BUT WITH NO SUCCESS.

THEN ONE DAY IN NEW ORLEANS I SAW A FAMILIAR FACE. THE FACE OF THE GAMBLER WHO HAD TAKEN BLACK COMET.

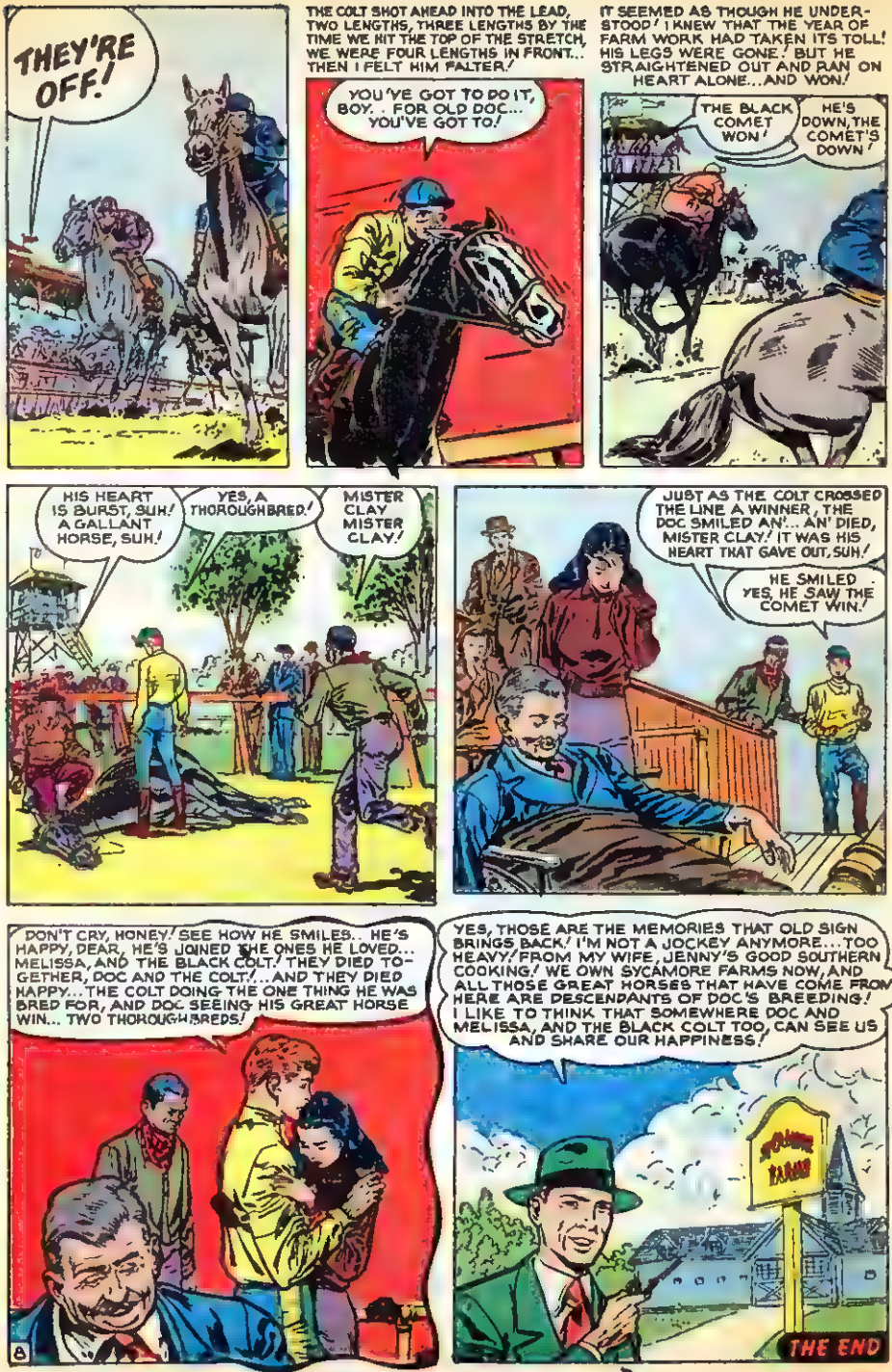
I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOU. WHERE'S THE COLT... WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

WHAT COLT? OH, YOU MEAN THAT BLACK COMET. THAT DOG WOULDN'T DO A THING FOR ME. I SOLD HIM. HE WAS A BUM LIKE HIS OWNER, DOC CONNELLY.

YOU ROTTEN CROOK.

HEY, WHO DO YOU... OHHHHHH.

SEEIN' WHAT YOU DID TO THAT SNAKE FOR CALLIN' DOC NAMES, I RECKON YOU MUST BE A FRIEND OF DOC'S, SO YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW THAT HE AND HIS DAUGHTER ARE HERE STAYIN' AT JACQUES, A FLEA BAG BOARDING HOUSE DOWN BY THE RIVER!
JACQUES! THANKS! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME!
SO AFTER A YEAR OF SEARCHING I FOUND THEM AGAIN!
OH, CLAY, CLAY!!
DON'T CRY, JENNY, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALRIGHT!
CLAY, SON! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
I'VE BEEN READING ABOUT YOU, SON, AND WE'RE MIGHTY PROUD OF YOU! I CAN'T GET TO THE TRACK... MY HEART'S IN BAD SHAPE! BUT I SURE WISH I COULD SEE THE COLT AGAIN! SEE BLACK COMET RUN BEFORE THIS TICKER OF MINE QUITS!
DOC, NOW THAT I'VE FOUND YOU, I'M GOING TO TRY AND FIND THE COMET! COME ON, JENNY! I'VE GOT TO SEE A MAN ABOUT A HORSE!
WE TOOK MY CAR BACK TO THE TRACK AND I LOCATED THE GAMBLER WHO WON THE COLT FROM DOC!
WHERE'S THAT COLT? WHO'D YOU SELL HIM TO? TALK FAST, MISTER!
DON'T HIT ME.. I'LL TELL YOU! I UNLOADED HIM ON A DIRT FARMER RIGHT OUTSIDE OF TOWN HERE!
YES, WE FOUND THE COLT, THE FINE RACY THOROUGHBRED... PULLING A PLOW!
COMET, IT'S HIM! IT'S THE COLT!
I BOUGHT THE COLT, AND RENTED OLD SYCAMORE FARMS, AND WE ALL CAME HOME AGAIN TO THE OLD PLACE TO CONDITION THE COLT FOR THE RACES!
HE'S AS FAST AS EVER, CLAY, BUT HE'LL NEVER RUN FOR ANYONE BUT YOU OR ME!
YES, BUT I KEEP WONDERING WHAT THAT YEAR OF PLOWING MIGHT HAVE DONE TO HIM, A THOROUGHBRED ISN'T MADE FOR THAT KIND OF WORK!
THEN CAME THE DAY, THE GODOLPHIN HANDICAP AND WE WERE IN IT, ME AND THE COLT AGAINST THE FINEST THOROUGHBREDS IN THE COUNTRY.
GOOD LUCK, BOY! SHOW THEM WHAT YOU CAN DO, COMET.
SEE YOU IN THE WINNERS CIRCLE!


THEY'RE OFF!
THE COLT SHOT AHEAD INTO THE LEAD, TWO LENGTHS, THREE LENGTHS BY THE TIME WE HIT THE TOP OF THE STRETCH, WE WERE FOUR LENGTHS IN FRONT... THEN I FELT HIM FALTER.
YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT, BOY. . FOR OLD DOC... YOU'VE GOT TO!
IT SEEMED AS THOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD! I KNEW THAT THE YEAR OF FARM WORK HAD TAKEN ITS TOLL! HIS LEGS WERE GONE! BUT HE STRAIGHTENED OUT AND RAN ON HEART ALONE... AND WON!
THE BLACK COMET WON!
HE'S DOWN, THE COMET'S DOWN!
HIS HEART IS BURST, SUH! A GALLANT HORSE, SUH!
YES, A THOROUGHBRED!
MISTER CLAY MISTER CLAY!
JUST AS THE COLT CROSSED THE LINE A WINNER, THE DOC SMILED AN'... AN' DIED, MISTER CLAY! IT WAS HIS HEART THAT GAVE OUT, SUH!
HE SMILED YES, HE SAW THE COMET WIN!
DON'T CRY, HONEY! SEE HOW HE SMILES.. HE'S HAPPY, DEAR, HE'S JOINED THE ONES HE LOVED... MELISSA, AND THE BLACK COLT! THEY DIED TOGETHER, DOC AND THE COLT!... AND THEY DIED HAPPY... THE COLT DOING THE ONE THING HE WAS BRED FOR, AND DOC SEEING HIS GREAT HORSE WIN... TWO THOROUGHBREDS!
YES, THOSE ARE THE MEMORIES THAT OLD SIGN BRINGS BACK! I'M NOT A JOCKEY ANYMORE... TOO HEAVY! FROM MY WIFE, JENNY'S GOOD SOUTHERN COOKING! WE OWN SYCAMORE FARMS NOW, AND ALL THOSE GREAT HORSES THAT HAVE COME FROM HERE ARE DESCENDANTS OF DOC'S BREEDING! I LIKE TO THINK THAT SOMEWHERE DOC AND MELISSA, AND THE BLACK COLT TOO, CAN SEE US AND SHARE OUR HAPPINESS!
SYCAMORE FARMS
THE END

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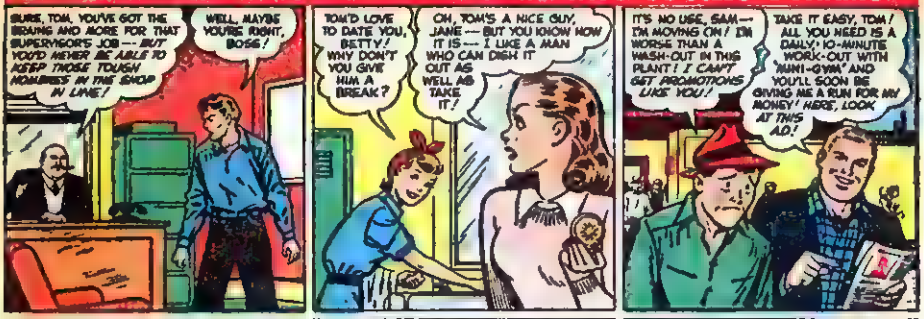
HOW 'MINI-GYM' TURNS PLANT "DRIP" INTO SUCCESS DYNAMO


SURE, TOM, YOU'VE GOT THE BRAINS AND MORE FOR THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB — BUT YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP THOSE TOUGH MOLDERS IN THE SHOP IN LINE!
WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BOSS!
TOM'D LOVE TO DATE YOU, BETTY! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A BREAK?
OH, TOM'S A NICE GUY, JANE — BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT IS — I LIKE A MAN WHO CAN DISH IT OUT AS WELL AS TAKE IT!
IT'S NO USE, SAM — I'M MOVING ON! I'M WORSE THAN A WASH-OUT IN THIS PLANT! I CAN'T GET PROMOTIONS LIKE YOU!
TAKE IT EASY, TOM! ALL YOU NEED IS A DAILY 10-MINUTE WORK-OUT WITH 'MINI-GYM' AND YOU'LL SOON BE GIVING ME A RUN FOR MY MONEY! HERE, LOOK AT THIS AD!

GOSH, SAM, I'M A NEW MAN! AM I GLAD YOU MADE ME CLIP THAT 'MINI-GYM' COUPON! WATCH ME DO JOE BONOMO'S TRICKY EXERCISE 10 AGAIN! IT'S A KILLER-DILLER!
GO TO IT, KID! I ALWAYS KNEW YOU HAD THE STUFF, BUT IT TAKES 'MINI-GYM' TO GIVE A MAN TOP TRAINING!
NEXT TIME, FELLER, YOU'D BETTER THINK FIRST BEFORE YOU START SMOOTHING OFF YOUR MOUTH AT ME!
OH, TOM, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
HONEST, TOM, I- I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING!
TWO MONTHS LATER
THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB IS YOURS, TOM! AND I DON'T HAVE TO WISH YOU LUCK! YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF INTO A REAL 'COMER' WHO MAKES HIS OWN LUCK!
THANKS, BOSS! I'LL MAKE GOOD... AND HOW!

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Packs All The Punch Of a Big, Expensive Gym, Including . . .
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Man'alive, you haven't really lived 'til you get your eager hands (Yes, and feet, too) into Joe Bonomo's best all exerciser, the unique, new 'MINI-GYM'! Even though you hated exercise before, with superb 'MINI-GYM' and Joe Bonomo's big, new *personal* instruction book . . . you'll eat it up! Find yourself acting like a kid again . . . and loving it!

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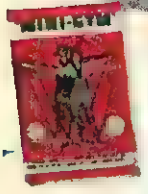
You bet, almost before you know it, a daily 10 minutes with 'MINI-GYM' builds you into the kind of real "he man" material bosses want most . . . and girls go for fastest! Can't help but be, for this new *miracle* "MINI-GYM" is an *all-round, all over* body conditioner . . . meaning it does a 100% job of building YOU! Toning, strengthening and popping up *every* muscle in your *whole* body!

'MINI GYM'S' Perfected By The Famous JOE BONOMO!

World famous, professional strong man himself, Joe Bonomo knows what it takes to build the physically perfect man! (Yes, and woman, too!) And he's put all his first hand knowledge into the design of this terrific new exerciser! So in MINI GYM' you've got *everything* it takes for genuine *professional* body-building!

Great For Women, Too! Builds Pep, Personality!

Though 'MINI-GYM' is plenty tough for the professional athlete, it's easy enough to be handled . . . and enjoyed . . . by any teen age girl or small woman. How come? Because Joe Bonomo designed 'MINI-GYM' for girls and women, too! Especially those who want to develop real pep, alluring curves and a super gorgeous figure! No wonder gals everywhere go for 'MINI-GYM' in a big, BIG way!



FREE Joe Bonomo's Personal Instruction Book

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HANK, Joe, and Charlie were lounging around Casey's joint, trying to keep their minds off the bank job scheduled that night. They had been jumpy ever since the police had been waiting for them the night they planned to rob the LaMode Jewelry Company. It was just plain luck that got them out of that jam, and it was a cinch not one of them wanted to come that close again.

Joe took a cigarette out of his pack and lighted it. His mind was a million miles away, as he tapped a pencil on the table. It used to make the gang nervous, but they knew that Joe was a bug with that tapping, just as some other guy might stroke his hair when his nerves were on edge. Nerves on edge—that was a good way to describe how they all felt. This sitting around Casey's was something like going over the top during the war.

Hank looked up at the clock and turned to Charlie.

"Sure the car is ready?" he rasped.

"Lay off it, will you, Hank? Sure it's ready. Everything is ready. You know that."

"Take it easy, Charlie . . ." Hank said.

"Sure, I'll take it easy. But you and your questions, like nobody knew his job except you. It's enough to drive a guy crazy," Charlie said.

Joe looked at Hank and Charlie and under his breath told them to stop snapping at each other. "What's the sense of us fighting?" he asked them angrily. "Save your energy for the cops next time we get into a scrape!"

Meantime Joe tapped with his worn-down pencil and seemed to keep himself relaxed that way. Both Hank and Charlie looked as if they wanted to kill him, sitting there so calmly, but finally, Hank broke the tension.

"You're right, Joe. Guess we both better quiet down. It's almost time now."

All three of them looked nervously at the clock again. There was still time to waste, and Joe slumped back in his chair.

"I remember," Hank started reminiscing again, "when I was a kid, and the cops picked me up one day for sticking up a small bakery near my house. The gun wasn't even loaded. I just used it for a bluff, but the cops took me down to head quarters and gave me a going over like I was Dillinger. I swore that day that I'd kill as many of them as I could and dare them to ever get me . . ."

That kind of talk started every time they waited for a job to happen. Nervous men always start repeating the same old stories. By now Hank really believed, in his twisted mind, that the police had given him a going-over. Actually they had released him with a tough lecture, but he had talked himself into believing that they mistreated him . . .

A slender, shabbily dressed stranger at the end of the bar picked up his newspaper, rolled it into his pocket, threw a half-dollar down on the bar, and shuffled out of Casey's.

"Who's the skeleton?" one of Casey's regulars asked, jerking his thumb at the departing stranger.

"Guy came in here once or twice before. Has a quiet beer or two, don't ever talk to no one, and don't make no fuss. Always looks like his mind's somewhere else. Like Joe, over there, tapping that pencil, not noticing what day it is. This character's another Joe, only he ain't even got a pencil to tap."

The shabby stranger walked out into the cool night air, damp with the smell of the nearby river, as if he were glad to be away from the stale air in Casey's. Strange actions for a man dressed like a barfly. But even stranger than this was the aimless way in which he ambled up to 17th Street and leaned against a lamppost under the harsh glare of the street light. In a moment or two a sleek, black limousine stopped where he was standing, and the strang-

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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Eyes _____
Clothing _____

COLOR—Picture No. 2
Hair _____
Eyes _____
Clothing _____

...CONTINUED

er opened the rear door and got in.

Once inside the car, the man picked up the hand telephone and barked into the mouthpiece. "This is Detective John Cassidy. Centre Street Station," he told the operator, and when he was connected with the home office of the New York police, he continued:

"Lieutenant Johnson, fast . . . hello, Johnson, get this . . . Eastern National Bank, 38th and Lexington . . . that's right . . . the Daly crowd. They've got nitro, tommy guns, and the watchman is in on it. Take the whole squad, and you won't have any trouble . . . Okay, I'll tell you later how I got the dope. So long. Good luck!"

That ended the telephone conversation between Cassidy in his official car and Johnson at Centre Street which started the wheels rolling in the heart of the world's largest police force.

In just a minute or two, four squad cars, packed with police, raced out of Centre Street and up to the bank. A few blocks away they parked, unloaded, signaled to a newly-arrived riot truck to stay in the background and the men proceeded on foot to 38th Street and Lexington. There they hid in doorways and in alleys, completely surrounding the bank, without making their presence known.

A short vigil and the awaited car arrived, bearing Hank, Charlie and Joe. The police stayed out of sight, as the three men walked nonchalantly to the bank entrance and calmly tapped the glass door just hard enough to crack the glass. Joe reached in, unlatched the door, and opened it for his companions.

Lieutenant Johnson blew his whistle, fired in the air, and shouted, "Lift 'em! Come out with your hands high. We've got you covered!"

Hank and Charlie whirled. Each was carrying a machine gun, and they lifted their hands still clutching their weapons high over their heads. Meantime, Joe, who was supposed to be so cool and careful, dashed like a frightened dog behind the safe granite and steel walls of the building.

Hank called, "Okay coppers, you got us! *We* can take it," he snarled. "Not like that yellow-bellied Joe hiding inside the bank. Get him and pump him full of lead, or I'll do it myself!"

The police came out of the hiding places and started across the street toward Hank and Charlie. They were carefully approaching, with guns trained on the gangsters, when suddenly, as if by signal, Hank and Charlie lowered their tommy guns and started shooting at the police.

"I'll get you now," Hank shouted. "I'll take you with me, just like I always said!"

"Rat-tat-tat-tat," spat the gun of Lieutenant Johnson. And for all his bravado, Hank, along with his henchman Charlie, went down on the pavement, his body riddled through and through by police bullets.

The police ran past the bodies and into the bank after Joe. Then, from across the street, came John Cassidy, the lean stranger from Casey's. And as the police dragged Joe into the street, Cassidy walked up and threw his arm around Joe's shoulder.

"Say, Joe," he said, "when we left the Navy, did you ever think you'd tap that pencil of yours, and I'd be listening to it? Did you ever think you'd sit in a joint like Casey's, tap out Eastern National Bank and all the rest? You really made some good use of that Morse Code they taught us at Great Lakes!"

THE END

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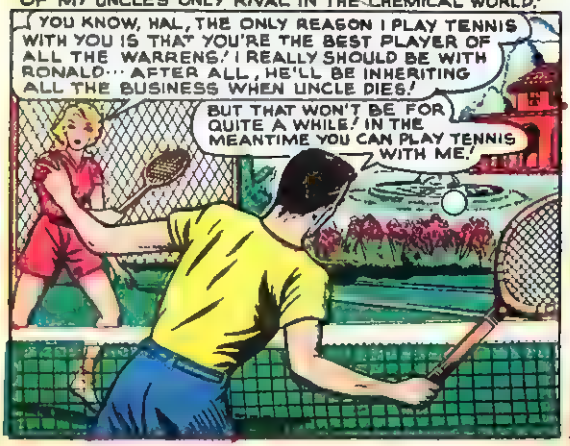
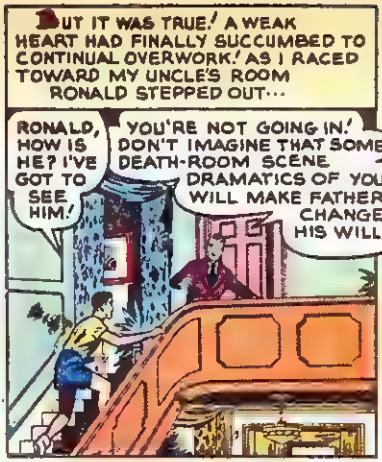
THE EDITORS OF MAN COMICS PROUDLY PRESENT THIS SUSPENSE-PACKED STORY OF THE STRANGEST DOUBLE-CROSS ON RECORD!
ONLY ONE MORE DEATH AND I, ALONE, WOULD BE LEFT! BUT THAT DEATH COULD BE MY OWN!

IT ALL BEGAN ON WHAT HAD STARTED OUT TO BE A PLEASANT AFTERNOON OF MARCH 13, 1949! I WAS PLAYING TENNIS WITH JANET MIDDLETON, DAUGHTER OF MY UNCLE'S ONLY RIVAL IN THE CHEMICAL WORLD!


YOU KNOW, HAL, THE ONLY REASON I PLAY TENNIS WITH YOU IS THAT YOU'RE THE BEST PLAYER OF ALL THE WARRENS! I REALLY SHOULD BE WITH RONALD··· AFTER ALL, HE'LL BE INHERITING ALL THE BUSINESS WHEN UNCLE DIES!
BUT THAT WON'T BE FOR QUITE A WHILE! IN THE MEANTIME YOU CAN PLAY TENNIS WITH ME!

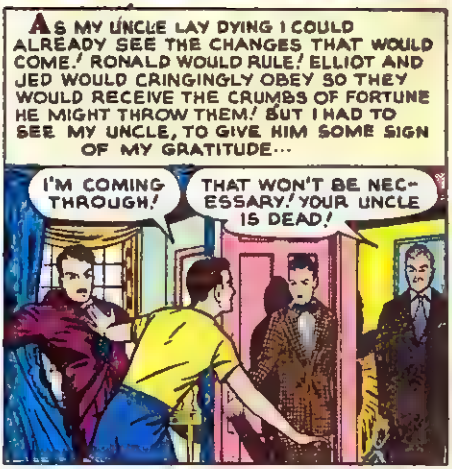
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! AS LONG AS HE'S ALIVE YOU'LL BE GETTING A FAIR BREAK HERE, EVEN THOUGH YOUR COUSINS BEAR YOU NO LOVE!
MR. WARREN! MR. WARREN! COME AT ONCE!
JARVIS! WHAT'S WRONG?

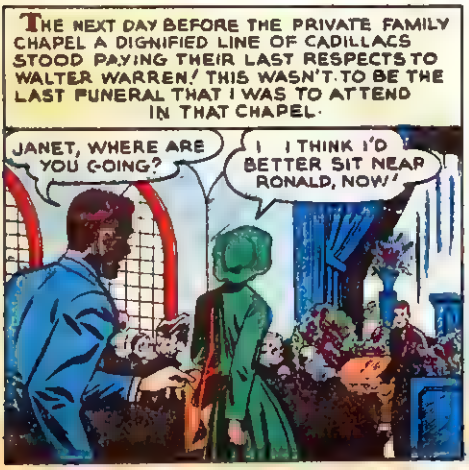
COME TO THE HOUSE QUICKLY, SIR! YOUR UNCLE IS DYING!
DYING? ...B...BUT THAT CAN'T BE!

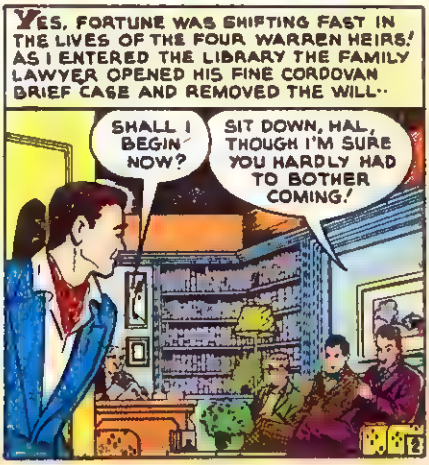

BUT IT WAS TRUE! A WEAK HEART HAD FINALLY SUCCUMBED TO CONTINUAL OVERWORK! AS I RACED TOWARD MY UNCLE'S ROOM RONALD STEPPED OUT...
RONALD, HOW IS HE? I'VE GOT TO SEE HIM!
YOU'RE NOT GOING IN! DON'T IMAGINE THAT SOME DEATH-ROOM SCENE DRAMATICS OF YOURS WILL MAKE FATHER CHANGE HIS WILL!

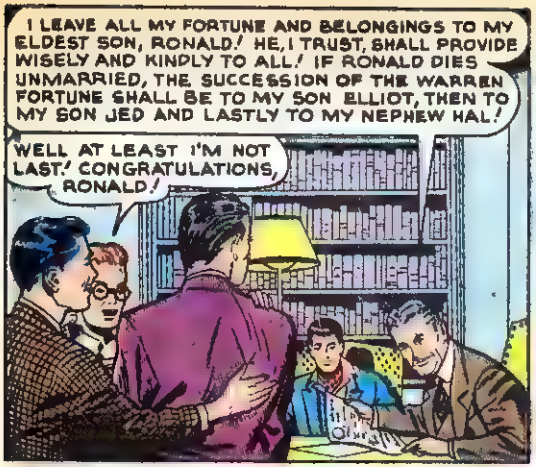
CHANGE HIS WILL? ARE YOU CRAZY? I WANT TO SEE HIM TO TELL HIM HOW MUCH I OWE HIM...HOW MUCH I THANK HIM FOR ALL..
VERY TOUCHING, BUT YOU'RE STAYING OUT!

JUST THEN ELLIOT STEPPED OUT OF THE ROOM.
ELLIOT, TELL RONALD TO LET ME GO INSIDE!
I'M AFRAID RONALD'S BOSS NOW! IF HE SAYS NO IT'S NO!

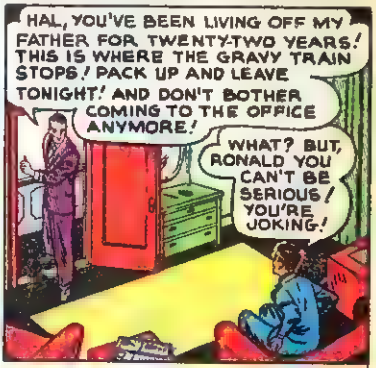

AS MY UNCLE LAY DYING I COULD ALREADY SEE THE CHANGES THAT WOULD COME! RONALD WOULD RULE! ELLIOT AND JED WOULD CRINGINGLY OBEY SO THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE CRUMBS OF FORTUNE HE MIGHT THROW THEM! BUT I HAD TO SEE MY UNCLE, TO GIVE HIM SOME SIGN OF MY GRATITUDE...
I'M COMING THROUGH!
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY! YOUR UNCLE IS DEAD!


THE NEXT DAY BEFORE THE PRIVATE FAMILY CHAPEL A DIGNIFIED LINE OF CADILLACS STOOD PAYING THEIR LAST RESPECTS TO WALTER WARREN! THIS WASN'T TO BE THE LAST FUNERAL THAT I WAS TO ATTEND IN THAT CHAPEL.
JANET, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I I THINK I'D BETTER SIT NEAR RONALD, NOW!

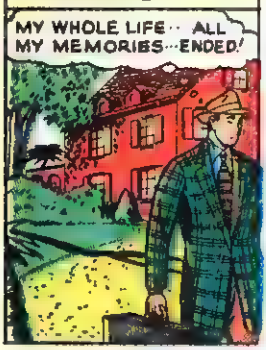

YES, FORTUNE WAS SHIFTING FAST IN THE LIVES OF THE FOUR WARREN HEIRS! AS I ENTERED THE LIBRARY THE FAMILY LAWYER OPENED HIS FINE CORDOVAN BRIEF CASE AND REMOVED THE WILL..
SHALL I BEGIN NOW?
SIT DOWN, HAL, THOUGH I'M SURE YOU HARDLY HAD TO BOTHER COMING!


I LEAVE ALL MY FORTUNE AND BELONGINGS TO MY ELDEST SON, RONALD! HE, I TRUST, SHALL PROVIDE WISELY AND KINDLY TO ALL! IF RONALD DIES UNMARRIED, THE SUCCESSION OF THE WARREN FORTUNE SHALL BE TO MY SON ELLIOT, THEN TO MY SON JED AND LASTLY TO MY NEPHEW HAL!
WELL AT LEAST I'M NOT LAST! CONGRATULATIONS, RONALD!

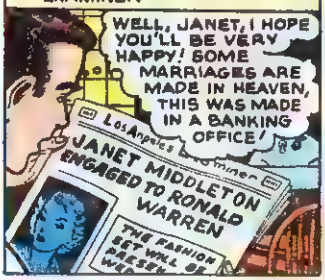
RONALD ASSUMED HIS WILLED POWERS WITH REMARKABLE SPEED! HARDLY HAD THE LAWYERS BUICK VANISHED DOWN THE LONG DRIVEWAY WHEN RONALD BRUSQUELY ENTERED MY ROOM!


HAL, YOU'VE BEEN LIVING OFF MY FATHER FOR TWENTY-TWO YEARS! THIS IS WHERE THE GRAVY TRAIN STOPS! PACK UP AND LEAVE TONIGHT! AND DON'T BOTHER COMING TO THE OFFICE ANYMORE!
WHAT? BUT, RONALD YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOU'RE JOKING!

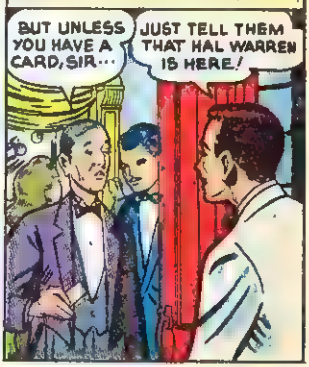
RONALD TURNED WITHOUT ANSWERING ME! ARGUMENT WAS USELESS, APPEAL FOOLISH... RONALD'S WILL HAD TO BE DONE...



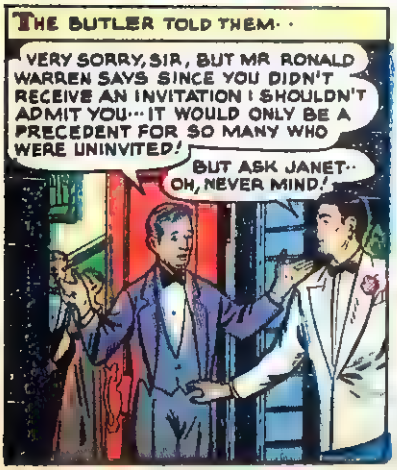
I TOOK A SMALL APARTMENT IN A NEARBY TOWN! I LOOKED FOR A JOB, BUT THE WARREN NAME WAS NO HELP TO ME! I WAS FOURTH IN LINE AND EVERYONE KNEW IT! AT EVERY SOCIAL EVENT, AT EVERY FAMILY PARTY... I WAS THE MISSING WARREN! THREE MONTHS LATER, AS I GLANCED AT THE "LOS ANGELES EXAMINER"...

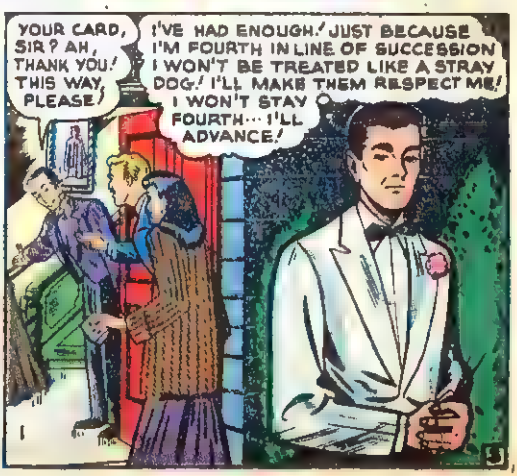

WELL, JANET, I HOPE YOU'LL BE VERY HAPPY! SOME MARRIAGES ARE MADE IN HEAVEN, THIS WAS MADE IN A BANKING OFFICE!
Los Angeles Examiner
JANET MIDDLETON ENGAGED TO RONALD WARREN
TWO FASHION SET WHO'LL BE MARRIED WEEK

I ASSUMED I HAD BEEN OVERLOOKED BY ACCIDENT WHEN THE INVITATIONS WERE MAILED, SO I WENT TO JANET AND RONALD'S PARTY ANYWAY...

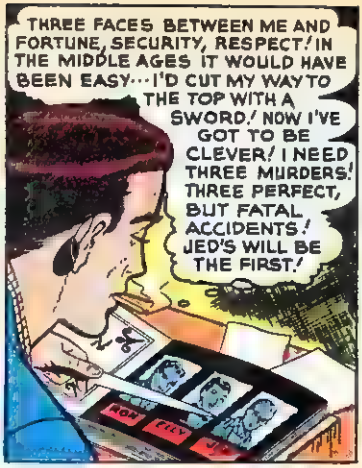


THE BUTLER TOLD THEM...

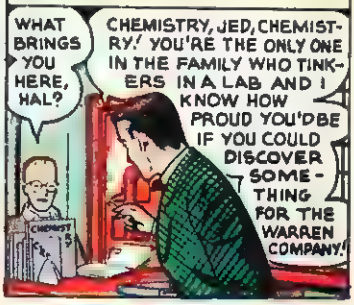

VERY SORRY, SIR, BUT MR RONALD WARREN SAYS SINCE YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE AN INVITATION I SHOULDN'T ADMIT YOU... IT WOULD ONLY BE A PRECEDENT FOR SO MANY WHO WERE UNINVITED!
BUT ASK JANET.. OH, NEVER MIND!


YOUR CARD, SIR? AH, THANK YOU! THIS WAY, PLEASE!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! JUST BECAUSE I'M FOURTH IN LINE OF SUCCESSION I WON'T BE TREATED LIKE A STRAY DOG! I'LL MAKE THEM RESPECT ME! I WON'T STAY FOURTH... I'LL ADVANCE!

HOW MANY KINGS HAVE REACHED THE CROWN OVER THE DEAD BODIES OF THEIR PRINCELY COUSINS? HOW MANY THRONES WERE MOUNTED BY BLOODY STEPS? I TOOK OUT THE FAMILY ALBUM··· THREE FACES STARED UP AT ME···

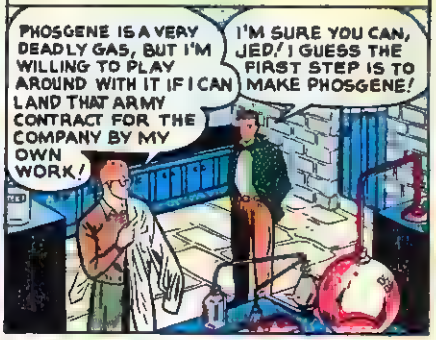

THREE FACES BETWEEN ME AND FORTUNE, SECURITY, RESPECT! IN THE MIDDLE AGES IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY··· I'D CUT MY WAY TO THE TOP WITH A SWORD! NOW I'VE GOT TO BE CLEVER! I NEED THREE MURDERS! THREE PERFECT, BUT FATAL ACCIDENTS! JED'S WILL BE THE FIRST!
BOB
FLEY
JED

ACCIDENTS "CAN ONLY HAPPEN IN THE NORMAL ROUTINE OF LIFE! IF SUSPICION IS NOT AROUSED! I KNEW MY THREE COUSINS' HABITS PERFECTLY··· I PLANNED THEIR DEATHS ACCORDINGLY··· WHEN RONALD WAS AWAY ON A BUSINESS TRIP I CALLED ON JED···

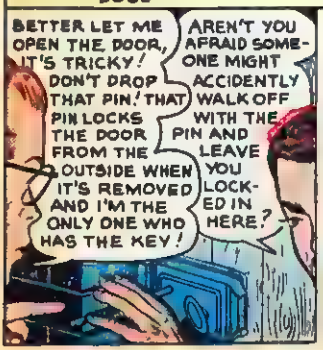

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, HAL?
CHEMISTRY, JED, CHEMISTRY! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THE FAMILY WHO TINKERS IN A LAB AND I KNOW HOW PROUD YOU'D BE IF YOU COULD DISCOVER SOMETHING FOR THE WARREN COMPANY!
CHEMIST

CERTAINLY I WOULD! THAT'S WHY I SPEND ALL MY SPARE TIME IN MY HILLSIDE LAB ON THE ESTATE! BUT WHAT DISCOVERY COULD I MAKE?
SINCE I ER··· LEFT THE FAMILY BUSINESS, I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH AN ARMY CONTRACTING COMPANY! PHOSGENE GAS HAS ALWAYS BEEN STORED IN STEEL CYLINDERS! THE ARMY WANTS A MORE PORTABLE STORAGE METHOD!

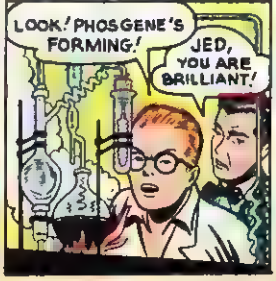
HOW POOR JED'S EYES LIT UP AT THE CHANCE OF BECOMING FAMOUS! WE BECAME DEAR FRIENDS AGAIN! THE NEXT DAY HE INVITED ME INTO HIS PRIVATE LAB! IT WAS BUILT RIGHT INTO A HILLSIDE··· AIRTIGHT···


PHOSGENE IS A VERY DEADLY GAS, BUT I'M WILLING TO PLAY AROUND WITH IT IF I CAN LAND THAT ARMY CONTRACT FOR THE COMPANY BY MY OWN WORK!
I'M SURE YOU CAN, JED! I GUESS THE FIRST STEP IS TO MAKE PHOSGENE!

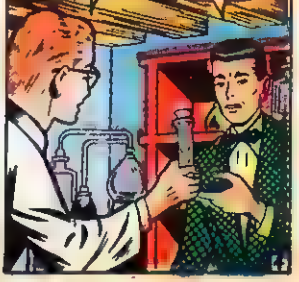
IT WAS EVER SO HELPFUL THAT AFTERNOON, HANDING JED TEST TUBES, BUNSEN BURNERS, CHEMICALS, WHILE HE LABORED PILIGENTLY OVER HIS OWN DEATH DOSE···


BETTER LET ME OPEN THE DOOR, IT'S TRICKY! DON'T DROP THAT PIN! THAT PIN LOCKS THE DOOR FROM THE OUTSIDE WHEN IT'S REMOVED AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS THE KEY!
AREN'T YOU AFRAID SOMEONE MIGHT ACCIDENTLY WALK OFF WITH THE PIN AND LEAVE YOU LOCKED IN HERE?

NO, JED WASN'T AFRAID OF ACCIDENTS! HE WASN'T EVEN SURPRISED THE NEXT DAY WHEN SOMETHING JUST HAPPENED TO GO WRONG WITH THE VENTILATING SYSTEM INSIDE THE LAB AND WE HAD TO LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN TO GET AIR···



CAREFULLY HE SEALED THE LETHAL TUBE···



IT MUST HAVE SEEMED VERY CLUMSY OF ME RIGHT AFTER JED'S WARNING···
HAL!
GREAT SCOTT! I···I DROPPED IT! THE PHOSGENE'S ESCAPING!
LET'S GET OUT···
WE WILL, BUT IN REVERSE ORDER! THE FOURTH IN LINE FIRST!
AS JED FELL TO THE FLOOR I RIPPED THE TRICK PIN FROM THE DOOR LOCK AND RACED OUT···
DON'T WORRY, JED··· I'M SAFE!
HAL!
THEN THAT WONDERFUL DOOR OF JED'S GAVE HIM THE PRIVACY HE ALWAYS SOUGHT··· EXCEPT FOR THE CHOKING FATAL COMPANY OF PHOSGENE GAS···
SORRY, JED, I CAN'T HEAR YOU THROUGH THIS EYE PANEL! YOU MIGHT AS WELL SAVE YOUR BREATH, YOU'LL NEED IT!
AS I SAW JED GASP AND SLUMP LIFELESSLY TO THE FLOOR I COUNTED TO A HUNDRED SLOWLY, THEN···
HELP! HELP!
WHAT'S WRONG, SIR? WHAT'S WRONG?
AS THE BUTLER RAN UP I MUST HAVE INDEED SEEMED A NOBLE FIGURE AS I GRABBED A NEARBY AXE AND SWUNG HEROICALLY···
YOU'VE ALMOST BROKEN THE DOOR!
ONE MORE SWING SHOULD DO IT!
BUT WHEN WE FINALLY ENTERED THE GAS FILLED LAB···
DEAD!
NATURALLY THE POLICE CAME··· NATURALLY I WAS DEEPLY GRIEVED AND BLAMED JED'S HORRIBLE DEATH ON MYSELF···
IF IT WASN'T FOR ME HE'D NEVER HAVE BEEN FOOLING AROUND WITH THAT DANGEROUS PHOSGENE! IF ONLY I HAD RETURNED TO THE LAB A MINUTE SOONER! IF I'D ONLY BROKEN THE DOOR FASTER···
DON'T TAKE IT THAT WAY, MR. WARREN! IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT! THE BUTLER TOLD US YOU DID ALL YOU POSSIBLY COULD!
5

CAREFULLY THAT NIGHT I ENTERED UNDER THE PICTURE OF THE LATE JED WARREN IN THE FAMILY ALBUM THE FATAL DATE···

JULY 14···FUNNY, THAT'S BASTILLE DAY IN FRANCE! PERHAPS A NEW REVOLUTIONIST IS BEGINNING TO PULL DOWN THE PROPS OF ANOTHER REGIME!

JED

BUT AT THE FUNERAL I WAS ABSOLUTELY DECENT IN MY BEHAVIOR··· A HEAVY SADNESS DARKENED MY MOURNFUL FACE! AGAIN A LINE OF CADILLACS PAID RESPECTS TO ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WARREN SUCCESSION! BUT THIS TIME JANET WAS A BIT FRIENDLIER···

IT MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE, HAL, SEEING JED DIE···EVEN IF IT MAKES YOU THIRD IN LINE FOR THE CHEMICAL EMPIRE!

THIRD IN LINE··· FOURTH IN LINE··THERE'S VERY LITTLE DIFFERENCE, JANET! I'LL NEVER BE THE WARREN!

AGAIN I BIDED MY TIME! WHEN RONALD WAS AWAY ON HIS NEXT TRIP I WENT FORTUNE HUNTING··· WITH A SHOTGUN···

ELLIOT, I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LIKE HUNTING, AND WITH JED GONE I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T MIND MY KEEPING YOU COMPANY IN THE FIELD!

VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU, HAL. THERE'S BEEN A REPORT OF A MOUNTAIN LION IN THE WOODS OF THE ESTATE! BUT I DON'T LIKE HUNTING MOUNTAIN LIONS ALONE··· TOO RISKY!

ELLIOT LOVED TO IMAGINE HE WAS A DARING HUNTER, BUT IN REALITY ELLIOT WITH HIS WINCHESTER HUNTING RIFLE AND HIS EXPENSIVE HUNTING OUTFIT, WAS A COWARD AND THAT WAS HIS DOWNFALL···

DON'T STEP NEAR THE TREES WITH THE WHITE MARKINGS··· I'VE LAID TRAPS BY THEM!

ROAR!

THE PAINFUL YELL OF A TRAPPED MOUNTAIN LION RANG THROUGH THE WOODS! WE RACED TOWARD THE BEAST···ELLIOT JUST A BIT BEHIND ME! THEN ELLIOT CAREFULLY RAISED HIS WINCHESTER···

GOT HIM!

NICE SHOOTING! AND IF YOU'D MISSED, YOU COULD HAVE KEPT SHOOTING AT HIM ALL DAY!

AS ELLIOT STARTED HOME I WENT BACKWAYS TO LOOK FOR A GLOVE I HAD ACCIDENTLY DROPPED···

NOW TO MAKE HUNTING A BIT DANGEROUS TO ELLIOT···I'LL SET THIS TRAP ALONGSIDE AN UNMARKED TREE!

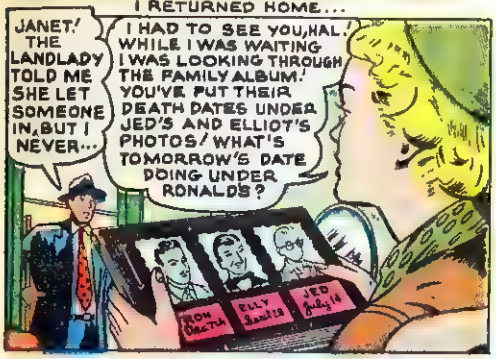
THE NEXT MORNING THE VICTORIOUS HUNTERS RETURNED! AS I LED ELLIOT TOWARD THE UNMARKED TRAP I ASKED HIM FOR HIS GUN···

ELLIOT, I'D LIKE TO TRY A SHOT WITH YOUR GUN IF YOU DON'T MIND MY···

AIEEE··· MY FOOT!

HAL, HELP ME! GET ME OUT··· MY FOOT··· IT'S KILLING···
STEADY, ELLIOT! YOU KNOW YOU'RE JUST LIKE THAT TRAPPED MOUNTAIN LION YESTERDAY! I WONDER HOW IT FEELS TO BE TRAPPED WHILE SOMEONE'S TAKING AIM AT YOU?
HAL!···H-H-HAL··· YOU'RE NOT GOING TO···
LET'S SEE IF I CAN DO IT ON THE FIRST SHOT··· JUST LIKE YOU DID!
ELLIOT FELL TO THE GROUND···DEAD! I RETURNED HIS WINCHESTER TO HIM AND TOOK BACK MY UNFIRED GUN! THEN I RACED HOMEWARDS, YELLING!
HELP! HELP!
RAN UP FROM THE GARDEN, SIR··· WHAT'S WRONG?
I EAGERLY SHOWED THE GARDENER WHAT WAS WRONG··· DOFFING MY HUNTING CAP RESPECTFULLY···
HE STEPPED INTO THAT UNMARKED TRAP AND FELL! HIS GUN HIT THE GROUND AND FIRED··· KILLED BY HIS OWN GUN!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT, SIR!
THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN THE MIND OF THE POLICE EITHER! YOU SEE, MINE WAS A SHOTGUN AND THE GUN THAT KILLED ELLIOT···
SEPTEMBER 28,···OH WELL, IT WAS RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE HUNTING SEASON!
ELLY
RONALD WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT···HE HAD NO FATAL HOBBIES AND THIS TIME I COULDN'T BE FOUND AGAIN EMBARRASSINGLY CLOSE TO THE BODY OF THE LAST DIRECT HEIR OF THE WARREN FORTUNE! I WANTED TO WAIT A DECENT INTERVAL AFTER ELLIOT'S DEATH BEFORE ARRANGING RONALD'S, BUT WHEN HE ANNOUNCED HIS WEDDING WOULD BE ON DECEMBER 10TH I HAD TO WORK FAST···
I SPOKE TO MR. RONALD WARREN! HE REFUSES TO SEE YOU AND ORDERS YOU TO LEAVE HIS GROUNDS AT ONCE!
THANK YOU!
THE FIRST STEP HAD WORKED PERFECTLY··· I HAD A WITNESS THAT RONALD WOULDN'T SEE ME OR HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME! THEN I SNEAKED OVER TO RONALD'S PRIVATE GARAGE···
WITH THIS WAX IMPRESSION I CAN HAVE THE KEY MADE! ON THE 6TH I'LL SNEAK IN AT NIGHT, PUNCTURE AND PATCH THE TIRE ON HIS SPEEDY JAGUAR THAT HE DRIVES TO WORK! THEN WHERE THE WARREN PRIVATE ROAD WINDS HIGH OVER THE PACIFIC I'LL SCATTER GLASS··· ON THE 7TH RONALD WILL REST "FULL FATHOM FIVE!"

ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 6TH I EVEN TRIED TO SEE RONALD AT HIS OFFICE··· NOW HIS SECRETARY WAS A WITNESS THAT I COULD NEVER BE FATALLY NEAR HIM! I SMILED BEFORE I HAD GONE OUT! I HAD ALREADY WRITTEN UNDER RONALD'S PHOTO DECEMBER 7TH ···BUT WHEN I RETURNED HOME···


JANET! THE LANDLADY TOLD ME SHE LET SOMEONE IN, BUT I NEVER···
I HAD TO SEE YOU, HAL! WHILE I WAS WAITING I WAS LOOKING THROUGH THE FAMILY ALBUM! YOU'VE PUT THEIR DEATH DATES UNDER JED'S AND ELLIOT'S PHOTOS! WHAT'S TOMORROW'S DATE DOING UNDER RONALD'S?
RON Oct 7th
ELLY Sept 13
JED July 14

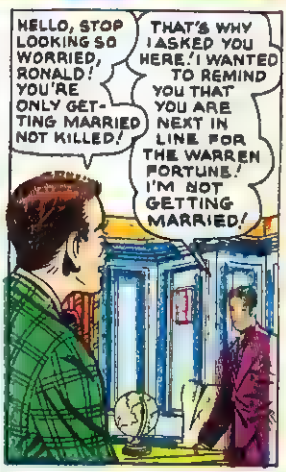
IT FELT MY WHOLE BODY TREMBLE BEFORE JANET'S FEARFUL QUESTION! I HAD BECOME TOO CONFIDENT···

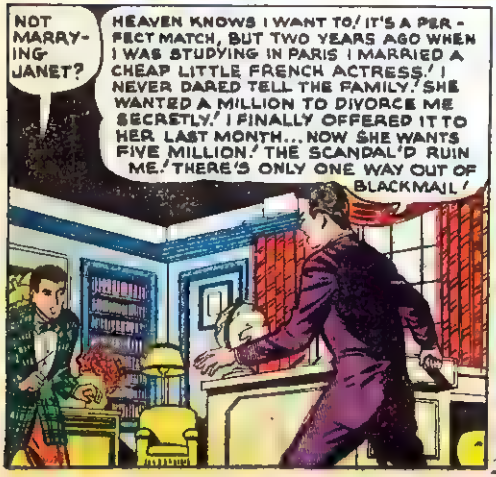
YOU LOOK PALE, HAL! WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING··· THE REASON I WROTE THE DATE THERE IS SIMPLE··· IT WAS TO REMIND ME TO BUY YOUR WEDDING PRESENT, TOMORROW! NOW WHAT DID YOU COME FOR?

RONALD'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY FOR THE PAST WEEK··· ALMOST AS IF HE DREADED OUR WEDDING! I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD EXPLAIN HIS UNUSUAL MANNER!
I NEVER SEE HIM, JANET! BUT IN A GROOM TO-BE I DON'T THINK HIS MANNER IS UNUSUAL··· JUST TRADITIONAL!

WHEN JANET LEFT I KNEW I HAD TO CHANGE THE DATE OF RONALD'S DEATH ···THE COINCIDENCE WOULD BE TOO DAMNING! I DECIDED TO KILL HIM ON THE 9TH··· BEFORE HE MARRIED OR JANET WOULD INHERIT ALL! BUT THE NEXT MORNING RONALD CALLED ME UP AND ASKED ME TO SEE HIM AT HOME!

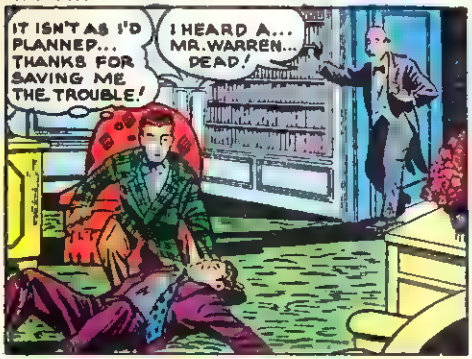
FUNNY, NOT A SERVANT AROUND! IT'S JUST AS WELL··· NOW I CAN GO RIGHT UP TO RONALD WITHOUT WAITING FOR FORMAL PERMISSION! NICE OF HIM TO ASK ME OVER TO GET A LOOK AT THE PLACE THAT SOON WILL BE MINE!


HELLO, STOP LOOKING SO WORRIED, RONALD! YOU'RE ONLY GETTING MARRIED NOT KILLED!
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU HERE! I WANTED TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU ARE NEXT IN LINE FOR THE WARREN FORTUNE! I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED!

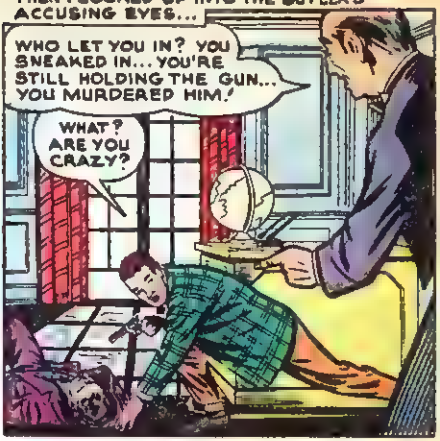

NOT MARRYING JANET?
HEAVEN KNOWS I WANT TO! IT'S A PERFECT MATCH, BUT TWO YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS STUDYING IN PARIS I MARRIED A CHEAP LITTLE FRENCH ACTRESS! I NEVER DARED TELL THE FAMILY! SHE WANTED A MILLION TO DIVORCE ME SECRETLY! I FINALLY OFFERED IT TO HER LAST MONTH··· NOW SHE WANTS FIVE MILLION! THE SCANDAL'D RUIN ME! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF BLACKMAIL!

SWIFTLY RONALD OPENED THE DESK DRAWER! I RACED TO HIM AS HE RAISED A PEARL-HANDLED REVOLVER···
RONALD!
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME! YOU'LL BE THE CHIEF BENEFICIARY ON MY DEATH···

A HORRIBE EXPLOSION ROCKED THE PANELED STUDY! THE SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED SUICIDE RATTLED ME! I FELT CHEATED! HE HAD RUINED MY MURDER PLAN! I BENT OVER HIS LIMP BODY, TAKING THE PISTOL FROM HIS HAND...



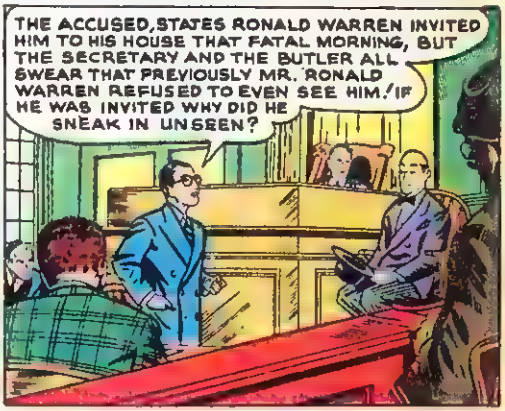
THEN I LOOKED UP INTO THE BUTLER'S ACCUSING EYES...



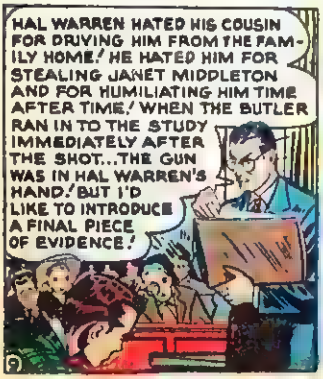
I LAUGHED AT THE BUTLER'S RIDICULOUS ACCUSATION! I CALLED IN THE POLICE MYSELF! THIS TIME I HAD NOTHING TO HIDE OR FEAR AT THE INQUEST OF A WARREN'S DEATH!

BUT I TOOK THE GUN FROM HIM AFTER HE WAS DEAD! HE KILLED HIMSELF!
JUST TO AVOID GETTING MARRIED IN A COUPLE OF DAYS I SUPPOSE... COME ALONG! I KNOW OF TWELVE PEOPLE WHO'D LIKE TO HEAR THIS STORY!

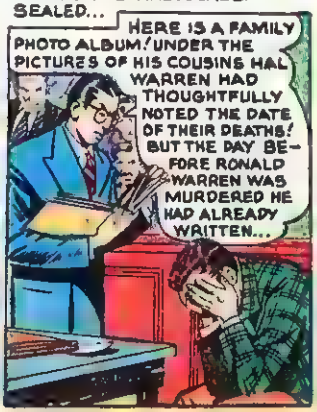
AT THE TRIAL I REALIZED THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO SERIOUSLY BELIEVED I HAD KILLED RONALD!


THE ACCUSED, STATES RONALD WARREN INVITED HIM TO HIS HOUSE THAT FATAL MORNING, BUT THE SECRETARY AND THE BUTLER ALL SWEAR THAT PREVIOUSLY MR. RONALD WARREN REFUSED TO EVEN SEE HIM! IF HE WAS INVITED WHY DID HE SNEAK IN UNSEEN?

I TRIED TO EXPLAIN MY PRESENCE, BUT NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE IN RONALD'S FRENCH WIFE AND HE HAD CAREFULLY HIDDEN ALL CLUES TO HER IDENTITY...


HAL WARREN HATED HIS COUSIN FOR DRIVING HIM FROM THE FAMILY HOME! HE HATED HIM FOR STEALING JANET MIDDLETON AND FOR HUMILIATING HIM TIME AFTER TIME! WHEN THE BUTLER RAN IN TO THE STUDY IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SHOT... THE GUN WAS IN HAL WARREN'S HAND! BUT I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE A FINAL PIECE OF EVIDENCE!

AS THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OPENED HIS BRIEF CASE I KNEW MY FATE WAS IRREVOCABLY SEALED...


HERE IS A FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM! UNDER THE PICTURES OF HIS COUSINS HAL WARREN HAD THOUGHTFULLY NOTED THE DATE OF THEIR DEATHS! BUT THE DAY BEFORE RONALD WARREN WAS MURDERED HE HAD ALREADY WRITTEN...

THE WARDEN AND THE PRIEST BEHIND ME MUST THINK ME VERY COURAGEOUS, FOR I AM SMILING AS I WALK TO MY DEATH! BUT I AM SMILING AT THE IRONY OF FATE WHICH SENTENCES ME TO DIE FOR THE ONLY DEATH OF WHICH I WAS NOT GUILTY!

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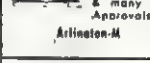

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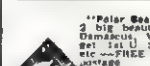

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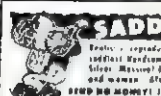

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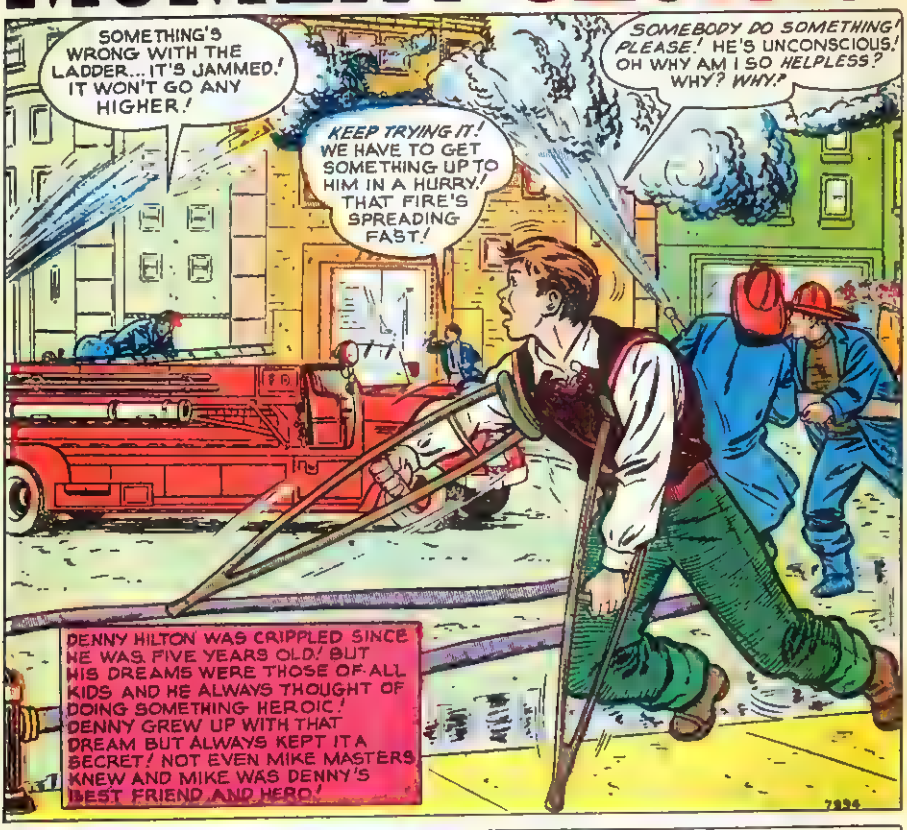
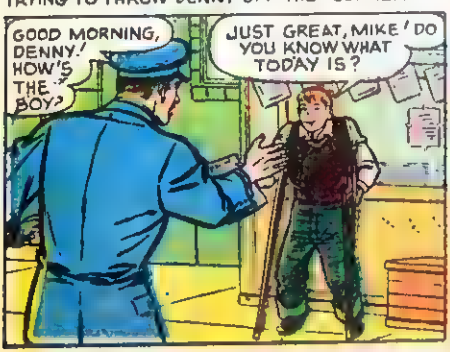

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE LADDER... IT'S JAMMED! IT WON'T GO ANY HIGHER!
KEEP TRYING IT! WE HAVE TO GET SOMETHING UP TO HIM IN A HURRY! THAT FIRE'S SPREADING FAST!
SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING! PLEASE! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! OH WHY AM I SO HELPLESS? WHY? WHY?
DENNY HILTON WAS CRIPPLED SINCE HE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD! BUT HIS DREAMS WERE THOSE OF ALL KIDS AND HE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF DOING SOMETHING HEROIC! DENNY GREW UP WITH THAT DREAM BUT ALWAYS KEPT IT A SECRET! NOT EVEN MIKE MASTERS KNEW AND MIKE WAS DENNY'S BEST FRIEND AND HERO!
7934

MIKE MASTERS ALWAYS STOPS AT DENNY'S NEWSSTAND ON THE WAY TO THE FIREHOUSE EVER SINCE DENNY FIRST OPENED THE STAND THREE YEARS AGO! THEIR FRIENDSHIP WAS BONDED WHEN MIKE CHASED SOME YOUNG HOODLUMS TRYING TO THROW DENNY OFF THE CORNER



I SURE DO! WEDNESDAY, AND GYM NIGHT FOR US! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET YOU GET FLABBY AFTER ALL THAT HARD WORK PUTTING MUSCLES ON YOU!... SEE YOU TONIGHT, KID!
SWELL, MIKE! PAPER, MISTER?

WEDNESDAY WAS ALWAYS A LONG DAY FOR DENNY, AND HE WASN'T RELAXED UNTIL HE WAS SITTING NEXT TO MIKE ON THEIR WAY TO THE Y.M.C.A....

YOU KNOW, MIKE, I'LL BET I CAN DO FIVE MORE CHINS THAN LAST WEEK!

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU PRACTICE IN SECRET!

AT THE GYM MIKE WORKED DENNY HARD... THEY HAD COME A LONG WAY IN THREE YEARS... DENNY HAD FILLED OUT AND HIS STRENGTH ABOVE THE WAIST WAS AMAZING!

C'MON, DENNY, LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN DO SEVEN MORE THIS WEEK!

I SURE WISH I COULD REPAY MIKE FOR ALL HE'S DONE FOR ME! HE'S A REAL PAL! BUT WHAT COULD I DO EVEN IF I *HAD* AN OPPORTUNITY... I CAN'T EVEN WALK PROPERLY!

THERE HE IS DREAMING OF BECOMING A HERO... HE DOESN'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING TO ME, I KNOW HIM WELL ENOUGH TO READ HIS THOUGHTS IN HIS EYES!

OKAY, TARZAN! THEY'RE CLOSING UP FOR TONIGHT! LET'S SHOWER AND I'LL TAKE YOU HOME!

SHUCKS, IT ALWAYS SEEMS LIKE FIFTEEN MINUTES INSTEAD OF AN HOUR!

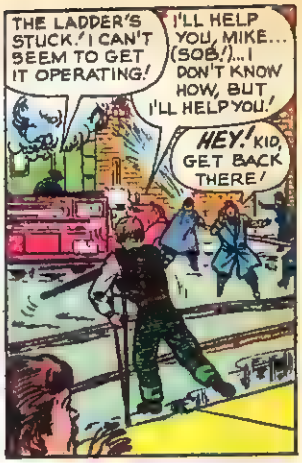
THE NEXT MORNING THE NEIGHBORHOOD WAS VIBRATING WITH THE SOUND OF ENGINES...

I HOPE MIKE WAVES TO ME WHEN THEY PASS!

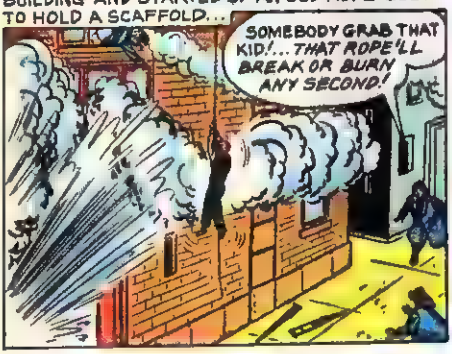
CLANG CLANG

W... WHY THEY'RE SLOWING DOWN! *HOLY COW!* THE FIRE'S RIGHT IN THE *MIDDLE OF THIS BLOCK!* NOW I CAN SEE MIKE IN ACTION...

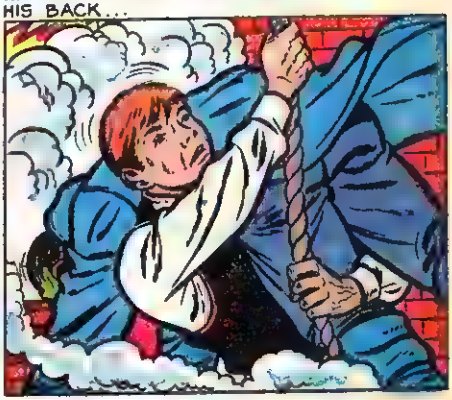
DENNY WATCHED WITH ADMIRATION. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HAD SEEN MIKE COMBATTING FIRE SUDDENLY HIS HEART POUNDED FURIOUSLY...


THE LADDER'S STUCK. I CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT OPERATING!
I'LL HELP YOU, MIKE... (SOB!)... I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT, I'LL HELP YOU!
HEY! KID, GET BACK THERE!

DENNY HEARD NOTHING BUT A VOICE INSIDE HIM SAYING, "MIKE IS TRAPPED! MIKE IS UNCONSCIOUS, HALF OUT OF THE TOP FLOOR WINDOW, AND NOBODY CAN GET TO HIM!" BEFORE ANYONE COULD STOP HIM, DENNY HAD REACHED THE BUILDING AND STARTED UP AN OLD ROPE USED TO HOLD A SCAFFOLD...

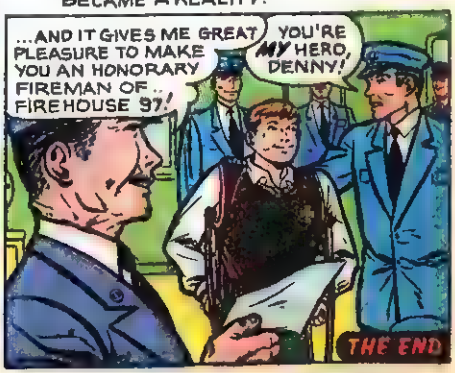


DENNY BROUGHT INTO PLAY ALL THE MUSCLES MIKE HAD HELPED HIM DEVELOP, AND WITHIN MOMENTS HE HAD MIKE'S LIMP FORM OVER HIS BACK...



HIS HANDS RAW AND BLEEDING FROM THE ROPE, DENNY CARRIED MIKE DOWN TO SAFETY AMID THE APPLAUSE AND CHEERS OF EVERYONE!

DENNY WAS A HERO, ALL RIGHT! HIS NAME AND PICTURE WERE IN ALL THE PAPERS, AND THE SCENE THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE FIREHOUSE THE FOLLOWING WEEK WAS A DREAM THAT BECAME A REALITY!



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THE KILLER!

YES, THAT'S THE WAY MOST FOLKS KNEW JIM CHAINE... AS A PAID GUNMAN, A *COLD-BLOODED KILLER!* BUT I COULD NEVER THINK OF HIM THAT WAY... MAYBE BECAUSE I KNEW HIM BETTER THAN MOST... KNEW HIM AS A BOY AND WAS THERE WHEN IT STARTED... THE THING THAT TURNED HIM INTO A DEADLY KILLING MACHINE! I'LL TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY... THE TRUE STORY OF THE BOY WHO WANTED NOTHING BUT PEACE... BUT WAS DESTINED TO A LIFE OF VIOLENCE!

ONLY MAN COMICS WOULD DARE PRINT THIS UNUSUAL STORY EXACTLY AS IT HAPPENED ON THE TEXAS FRONTIER IN 1886!

JERRY ROBINSON

I WAS FOREMAN OF THE DOUBLE D RANCH, DOWN TEXAS WAY, AND JIM CHAINE, A NICE, QUIET LAD, AND HIS PARD, MARTY HART, WERE THE YOUNGEST DOUBLE D RIDERS!

WHAT DO YOU YOUNG ROOSTERS THINK YOU'RE DUDIN' UP FOR?

WHY WE'RE GOIN' TO THE DANCE AT HAGGART'S WELLS!

ARE YOU GOIN' IN, CLYDE?

SURE THING! AIN'T MISSED ONE IN FORTY YEARS! BUT YOUNGSTERS LIKE YOU TWO SHOULD BE IN BED, NOT GAL-LIVANTIN' AROUND TO DANCES! WHY, WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...

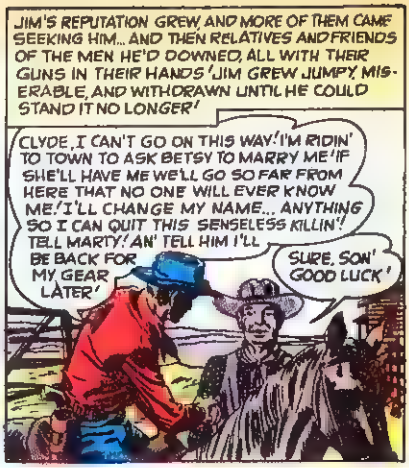
YOU CAN TELL US THAT STORY AGAIN, WHILE WE'RE RIDIN' IN, CLYDE! HURRY UP, JIM, IT'S OUR NIGHT TO HOWL! *YIPEEEE!*

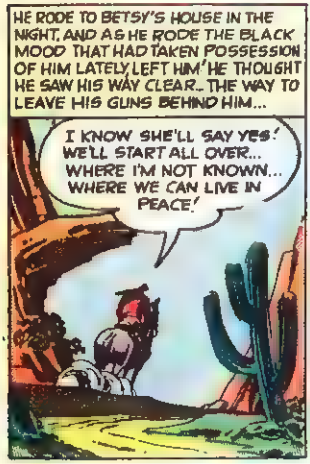
SO WE RODE OFF TO HAGGART'S WELLS, TWO KIDS AND AN OLD-TIMER, LIGHT-HEARTED AND GAY, WITH NARY A PREMONITION OF THE TRAGEDY WE WERE BEGINNING ON THAT RIDE...
HEY, JIM, YOU'RE ONLY HALF DRESSED.. FORGOT YOUR HARDWARE!
STOP JOSHIN', MARTY! YOU KNOW I NEVER WEAR GUNS! ANY MAN WHO WEARS 'EM USES 'EM, SOONER OR LATER, AND I DON'T EVER AIM TO S'TART! I'M A RIGHT PEACEFUL SORT OF CITIZEN.. YOU KNOW THAT!
WE WENT TO THE DANCE IN THE OLD BARN ON MAIN STREET, AND THE MINUTE THOSE TWO KIDS WALKED IN THEY BOTH SPOTTED THE SAME THING... BETSY COMSTOCK A NEW GAL IN TOWN!
GOSH! SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!
PRETTY AS A PICTURE!
GRAB YOUR PARTNERS!
MA'AM. ER.. MISS.. CAN I DANCE. I MEAN WITH YOU?
BEAT IT, CHAINE! BETSY'S DA...CIN' WITH ME!
DIDN'T MEAN TO STEP ON YOUR TOES, ERNIE I JUST WANTED TO DANCE WITH HER!
LOOK'S LIKE YOU LOST HER ANY-WAY, ERNIE!
THAT DANGED MARTY!
JIM, I CAN'T FIGGER WHY YOU TAKE GUFF FROM GUYS LIKE ERNIE! I'VE SEEN YOU HANDLE A SIX GUN ON COYOTES, AND YOU'RE MIGHTY FAST! YOU'RE TOUGH AN' STRONG, TOO, I KNOW THAT FROM WATCHING YOU WORK CATTLE!
I DON'T BELIEVE IN VIOLENCE, CLYDE! I THINK MEN CAN GET ALONG PEACEFULLY! AS FOR THE GUN...WELL, I'M TOO FAST WITH A GUN, THAT'S WHY I NEVER WEAR ONE!
JIM FINALLY DID GET TO DANCE WITH BETSY, AND FROM THAT MINUTE HE WAS A GONE GOSLING! HE HAD THAT CALF LOOK IN HIS EYES! LATER, WHEN THE DANCE WAS OVER, HE AND MARTY STARTED TO TAKE HER HOME..
CLYDE, WHAT'RE YOU TRAILIN' US FOR, YOU OL' MOSSYHORN?
YOU GOTTA HAVE A CHAPERON, SON, IT AIN'T.
CLYDE! SNAP FANTOLL'S IN TOWN! BEEN TANKIN' UP, AN' HEADED FOR THE DANCE! YOU SEEN HIM?
THAT KILLER HERE? NO, I AIN'T SEEN HIM!
HERE HE COMES NOW. WATCH YOURSELF! HE'S MEAN, AN' FAST AS LIGHTNIN'!
2

WELL, WELL, WELL 'HELLO, PRETTY FACE' YOU'RE JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FER! C'MERE, AN' GIVE OL' SNAP A NICE BIG KISS, HONEY!
NOW HOLD ON SNAP!
WHAT ?
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HER!
YUH CRAZY YOUNG SQUIRT! YUH JEST PUNCHED YERSELF A TICKET TUH BOOT HILL'
LOOK OUT, JIM!
I NEVER SAW ANYTHING SO FAST IN ALL MY LIFE! I FELT A QUICK PLUCK AT MY HOLSTER, THEN TWO SHOTS, ALMOST BLENDING, AND SNAP FOLDED UP LIKE A RAG DOLL!
ARRGHH!
I'M SORRY THAT HAD TO HAPPEN, BETSY!
SO AM I, JIM! FOR YOUR SAKE' SNAP WAS A FAMOUS GUNMAN AN' DOWNIN' HIM MAKES YOU A MARKED MAN .. A TARGET FOR EVERY TWO-BIT GUNMAN LOOKIN' FOR A REPUTATION' YOU BETTER WEAR A GUN FROM NOW ON!
DID YOU SEE IT?
YEAH' HE WAS AS COOL AS ICE AN' FAST AS LIGHTNIN" A REAL GUN-SLINGER'
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT, CLYDE' I'M STILL NOT WEARING A GUN' ME AN MARTY WILL TAKE BETSY HOME, THEN I'M RIDIN' BACK TO THE RANCH' IN CASE THE SHERIFF WANTS ME
HE WON'T! IT WAS SELF-DEFENSE'
AS THE WEEKS PASSED NOTHING HAPPENED, NO GUNMEN LOOKING FOR JIM. I BEGAN TO FIGURE I WAS A BAD PROPHET' MEANWHILE, JIM AND MARTY WERE BOTH SPARKIN' BETSY COMSTOCK, AND A FRIENDLY RIVALRY HAD DEVELOPED BETWEEN THEM!
CLYDE, I'M RIDIN' INTO TOWN TO SEE BETSY' LAST NIGHT WAS MARTY'S TURN'
STILL RIDIN' WITHOUT HARDWARE, I SEE' WELL, I'LL RIDE IN WITH YOU! I NEED SOME TOBACCO'
3

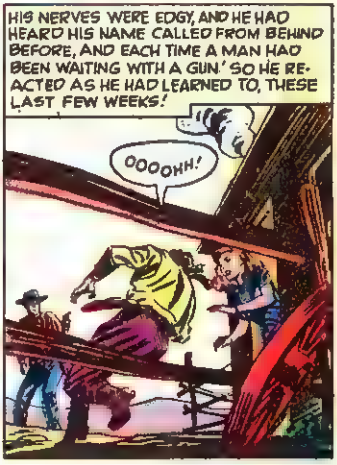
WE JOGGED INTO HAGGART'S WELLS AND PUT THE HORSES UP...
LOOK, JIM, WHILE YOU'RE IN TOWN, SHOVE THIS HOG-LEG IN YOUR WAISTBAND WILL YOU?
DON'T BE SILLY, CLYDE! I'M JUST GOING TO SEE BETSY!
HEY, JIM, THERE'S A TOUGH LOOKIN' JASPER BEEN ASKIN' 'BOUT YUH! SAYS HE WANTS TO SEE THE HOMBRE THAT DOWNED SNAP FANTOLL!
IT'S COME, BOY. THE THING I FEARED! TAKE THIS GUN!
ALL RIGHT! BUT I WON'T USE IT! I'M RIDIN' BACK TO THE RANCH! I AIN'T LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE!
THEY TELL ME THE GUY THAT GUNNED SNAP JUST RODE IN! WHICH OF YOU BIRDS IS HIM? I'D ADMIRE TO TAKE A GANDER AT THIS GUN-WONDER!
I'M... I'M THE FELLOW WHO DID IT... IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
YOU DON'T LOOK SO FAST TO ME, FELLER! I GOT A HANKERIN' TO SEE JUST HOW FAST YOU ARE! I GOT AN IDEA THAT I'M GONNA BE THE GUY WHO DOWNED THE GUY WHO OUTDREW SNAP FANTOLL! YOU READY?
NO... WAIT! THIS IS CRAZY! WE HAVE NOTHIN' AGAINST EACH OTHER!
BUT THERE WAS NO STAVING THE YOUNG TOUGHY! HE PRIMED HIMSELF INTO A KILLING MOOD, AND HE DREW! I COULD SEE THE LOOK OF AGONY ON JIM'S FACE WHEN HE KNEW THAT IT WAS HIM OR THE OTHER GUY.
DRAW! ARRGH!
HE GOT YOU, JIM! YOU WAITED TOO LONG TO DRAW!
I... I DIDN'T REALLY THINK HE WOULD UNTIL THE LAST SECOND! THE ARM IS NOTHING.. A SCRATCH! I'M RIDIN' BACK, CLYDE!
JIM TOOK TO WEARING GUNS THEN, AND HE BECAME MORE QUIET AS HE NOTICED HOW PEOPLE SHIED AWAY FROM HIM OR WERE OVER POLITE! HIS WAS A SORT OF DESPERATE QUIETNESS, LIKE A MAN WHO HAS A DEEP PAIN INSIDE OF HIM AND QUIETLY WAITS UNTIL IT WILL STOP!
HEY, THERE'S A COYOTE! GET HIM, JIM. YOU GOT TO KEEP IN PRACTICE NOW, JIM!
I'M HOPIN' I DON'T! I'M HOPIN' THAT THIS... TIME WILL FADE AND I CAN HANG UP THESE GUNS AGAIN.. FOR GOOD!

BUT IT COULDN'T BE THE WAY HE WANTED IT' THEY CAME TO TRY HIM ...THE YOUNG GUN-PROUD SQUIRTS AND THE HARD-ENED MEN' THEY SOUGHT HIM OUT AND MADE HIM KILL!

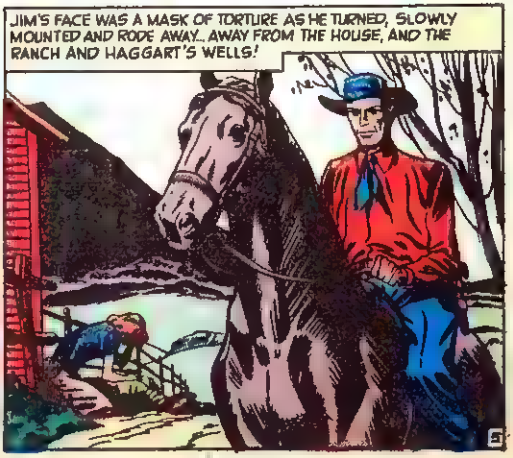

JIM'S REPUTATION GREW AND MORE OF THEM CAME SEEKING HIM... AND THEN RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE MEN HE'D DOWNED, ALL WITH THEIR GUNS IN THEIR HANDS' JIM GREW JUMPY, MISERABLE, AND WITHDRAWN UNTIL HE COULD STAND IT NO LONGER'
CLYDE, I CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY! I'M RIDIN' TO TOWN TO ASK BETSY TO MARRY ME' IF SHE'LL HAVE ME WE'LL GO SO FAR FROM HERE THAT NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW ME. I'LL CHANGE MY NAME... ANYTHING SO I CAN QUIT THIS SENSELESS KILLIN'! TELL MARTY, AN' TELL HIM I'LL BE BACK FOR MY GEAR LATER'
SURE, SON' GOOD LUCK'

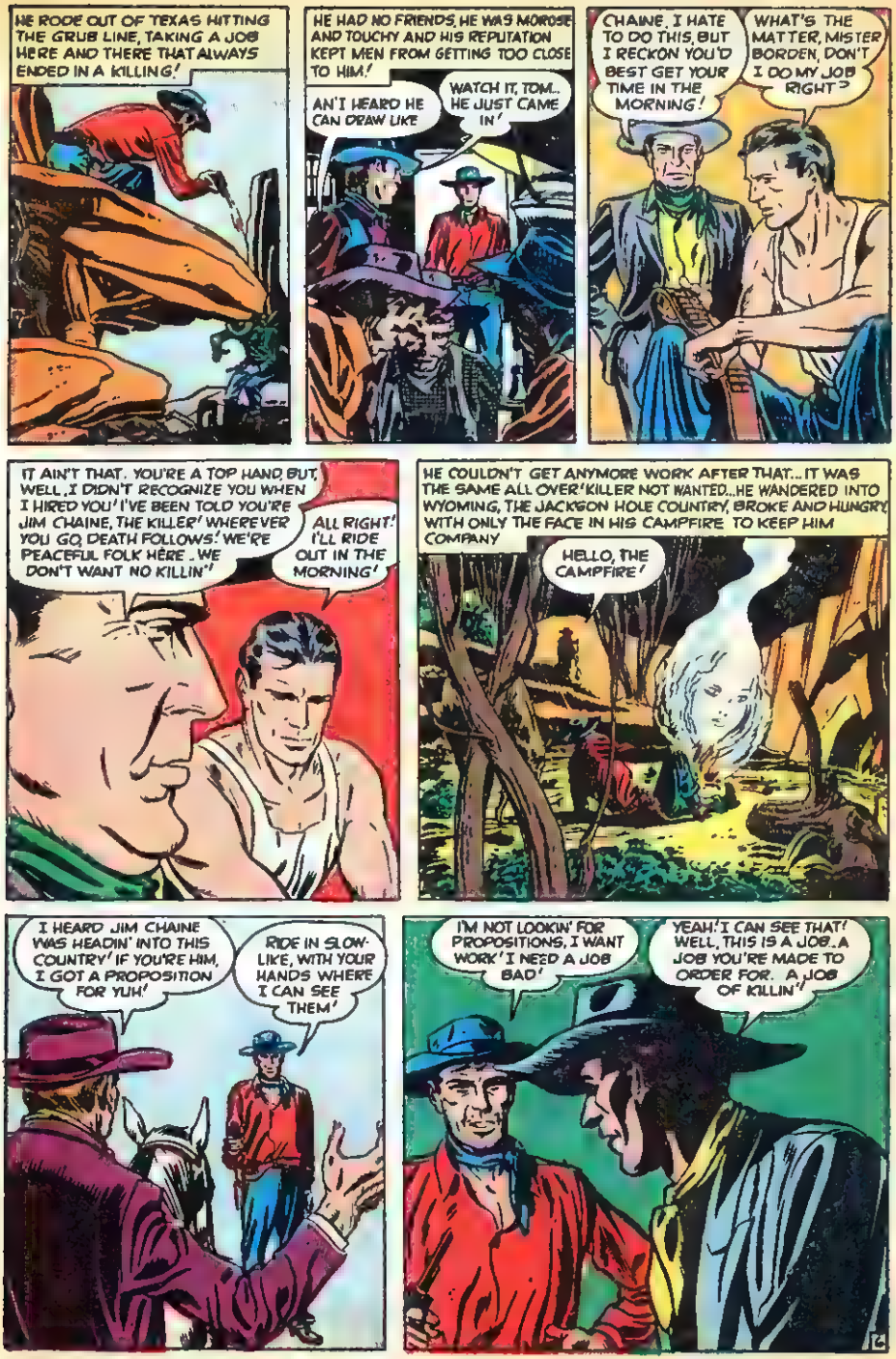

HE RODE TO BETSY'S HOUSE IN THE NIGHT, AND AS HE RODE THE BLACK MOOD THAT HAD TAKEN POSSESSION OF HIM LATELY LEFT HIM' HE THOUGHT HE SAW HIS WAY CLEAR... THE WAY TO LEAVE HIS GUNS BEHIND HIM...
I KNOW SHE'LL SAY YES! WE'LL START ALL OVER... WHERE I'M NOT KNOWN... WHERE WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE!

JIM!


HIS NERVES WERE EDGY, AND HE HAD HEARD HIS NAME CALLED FROM BEHIND BEFORE, AND EACH TIME A MAN HAD BEEN WAITING WITH A GUN' SO HE REACTED AS HE HAD LEARNED TO, THESE LAST FEW WEEKS!
OOOOHH!

IT'S MARTY! YOU'VE KILLED MARTY!
MARTY' NO, NOT MARTY! I DIDN'T KNOW... I THOUGHT IT WAS ONE OF THEM'


JIM'S FACE WAS A MASK OF TORTURE AS HE TURNED, SLOWLY MOUNTED AND RODE AWAY... AWAY FROM THE HOUSE, AND THE RANCH AND HAGGART'S WELLS!


HE RODE OUT OF TEXAS HITTING THE GRUB LINE, TAKING A JOB HERE AND THERE THAT ALWAYS ENDED IN A KILLING!
HE HAD NO FRIENDS, HE WAS MOROSE AND TOUCHY AND HIS REPUTATION KEPT MEN FROM GETTING TOO CLOSE TO HIM!
AN' I HEARD HE CAN DRAW LIKE
WATCH IT, TOM.. HE JUST CAME IN!
CHAINE, I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT I RECKON YOU'D BEST GET YOUR TIME IN THE MORNING!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MISTER BORDEN, DON'T I DO MY JOB RIGHT?
IT AIN'T THAT.. YOU'RE A TOP HAND, BUT, WELL, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU WHEN I HIRED YOU! I'VE BEEN TOLD YOU'RE JIM CHAINE, THE KILLER! WHEREVER YOU GO, DEATH FOLLOWS! WE'RE PEACEFUL FOLK HERE.. WE DON'T WANT NO KILLIN'!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL RIDE OUT IN THE MORNING!
HE COULDN'T GET ANYMORE WORK AFTER THAT... IT WAS THE SAME ALL OVER! KILLER NOT WANTED.. HE WANDERED INTO WYOMING, THE JACKSON HOLE COUNTRY, BROKE AND HUNGRY, WITH ONLY THE FACE IN HIS CAMPFIRE TO KEEP HIM COMPANY
HELLO, THE CAMPFIRE!
I HEARD JIM CHAINE WAS HEADIN' INTO THIS COUNTRY! IF YOU'RE HIM, I GOT A PROPOSITION FOR YUH!
RIDE IN SLOW-LIKE, WITH YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!
I'M NOT LOOKIN' FOR PROPOSITIONS, I WANT WORK! I NEED A JOB BAD!
YEAH! I CAN SEE THAT! WELL, THIS IS A JOB.. A JOB YOU'RE MADE TO ORDER FOR. A JOB OF KILLIN'!

WHERE DO YOU GET THAT STUFF? I AIN'T NO PAID KILLER!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE WHETHER YOU GET PAID OR NOT. I KNOW YOUR REPUTATION! LOOK, THIS'LL BE A CINCH! THERE'RE SOME SHEEPHERDERS ON MY RANGE AN' I WANT THEM OFF, AN' I CAN'T DO IT LEGALLY! THERE'RE THREE OF 'EM, AND I'LL PAY YOU $500 A HEAD TO DOWN THEM!
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT JIM WAS AT A LOW POINT BROKE, STARVING AND THE BLACKNESS GATHERING IN HIS SOUL! MAYBE THAT EXPLAINS THE WAY HE FIGURED NOW...
THEY FORCE ME...THEY MAKE ME KILL ANYWAY! WHY NOT GET PAID FOR IT SO I CAN EAT, LIVE, BE A MAN AGAIN, INSTEAD OF A BUM? WHY NOT?
ALL RIGHT, MISTER YOU'VE HIRED A GUN!
HE KILLED THEM, AND WAS PAID.
BUT OTHER FACES DANCED IN THE FLAMES OF HIS FIRE NOW... THE FACES OF THE MEN HE HAD KILLED FOR MONEY!
GO AWAY! GO AWAY!
STOP HAUNTING ME YOU HORRID GHOSTS! YOU'RE DEAD, SO STAY DEAD!
HE SPENT HIS NIGHTS IN THE TOWN, THERE AFTER, IN THE LIGHT, GAMBLING HIS BLOOD MONEY AWAY UNTIL IT WAS GONE! RECKLESS, WANTING LIGHT AND PEOPLE AROUND TO KEEP THE GHOSTS AWAY!
THAT FINISHES ME!
JIM WANDERED AGAIN, AND NOW, MEN CALLED HIM "BLACK" JIM CHAINE! HE RODE TOWARD TEXAS. SOMETHING DRAWING HIM BACK AS THOUGH FATE WISHED TO COMPLETE A CYCLE!
THAT'S "BLACK" JIM CHAINE!
CHEVRON TEXAS POP 375
CHAINE, MY NAME'S ANSON CARTRIGHT! I'LL BUY YOU A DRINK... WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
FAIR ENOUGH ANOTHER PROPOSITION, I SUPPOSE! MORE FACES IN THE FIRES!

CHAINE, I OWN A LARGE SPREAD BUT I DON'T HAVE CLEAR TITLE TO IT AND A NESTER HAS COME IN WITH A SMALL HERD AND TOOK TITLE TO SOME OF THAT LAND! I CAN'T LEGALLY PUT HIM OFF, BUT I WANT HIM OFF! I'LL PAY $1,000 TO GUN HIM DOWN!
THE SAME OLD STORY! MAYBE I SHOULD DO IT! IT WOULD GIVE ME A STAKE! I'LL GO BACK TO BETSY, WE COULD START ALL OVER! MARTY... THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT! SHE'LL REALIZE THAT! WITH THIS MONEY WE COULD GO TO SOUTH AMERICA... I COULD HANG UP MY GUNS FOR GOOD!
THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME I'LL EVER TOUCH A GUN... I SWEAR IT!
THERE'S THE MAN, NOW! GET HIM AND YOU'RE RICHER BY $1,000! I'LL SWEAR TO THE LAW IT WAS AN EVEN BREAK! HOW ABOUT IT?
HAVE THE MONEY READY! I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE!
MISTER, TURN AROUND AND DRAW! I'M CALLIN' YOU!
JIM DREW IN THAT FAST SMOOTH DRAW AS THE MAN TURNED, DRAWING TOO! BUT JIM'S FINGER DIDN'T SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER. . HE WAS STRUCK MOTIONLESS, PARALYZED BY RECOGNITION OF THE MAN BEFORE HIM...
MARTY!
THEN HE WAS DOWN IN THE DUST OF THE STREET, HEAVY WITH THE DEATH LOAD OF LEAD IN HIS CHEST! BUT EVERY LITTLE DETAIL OF THAT MOMENT WAS CLEAR IN HIS SIGHT! HE SAW THE GOLD BAND ON BETSY'S FINGER, AND THE FACES OF THE TWO PEOPLE HE LOVED MOST.
JIM... JIM... OH... JIM!
JIM, I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU! YOU DIDN'T KILL ME THAT NIGHT! ONLY WOUNDED... WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WE UNDERSTOOD! I'LL GET THE DOC!
NO! IT'S TOO LATE!
8
JIM... I DIDN'T KNOW!
SHH.. DON'T BE SORRY! I'M GLAD! THIS, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OUT FOR ME... THE ONLY WAY I CAN FIND PEACE... AT LAST... I KNOW THAT NOW! THANKS, MARTY! THE PHANTOM FACES... THEY'RE FADING! PEACE... AT... LAST!
HE. HE'S GONE!
I SUPPOSE YOU WONDER IF MARTY WAS CAUGHT IN THE SAME WEB JIM WAS, AFTER DOWNING JIM! WELL, HE WASN'T! HE WENT TO SOUTH AMERICA, AND HIM AND BETSY HAD A FINE RANCH AND A SON, JIM CHAINE HART! SOME FOLKS MAY THINK IT BAD LUCK TO NAME A BABY AFTER A MAN LIKE JIM WAS KNOWN TO BE! WELL, THERE ARE WAYS OF READIN' ANY STORY. THEY CAN READ IT THEIR WAY... AND I'LL READ IT MINE!
THE END

SUBSCRIBE NOW! $1.00 FOR NEXT 12 ISSUES!
MAN COMICS SUITE 1404 366 5TH AVE. NEW YORK CITY 10

STOP crying about PIMPLES

AMAZING NEW TREATMENT FIGHTS PIMPLES* WITH *FIRST* APPLICATION

Yes, you can stop shedding tears over unsightly externally caused* pimples, acne and blackheads because here is a new method of complete skin care based on the most recent scientific knowledge of complexion problems.

We therefore make an offer so compelling that you cannot, in fairness to yourself, pass up the opportunity it presents.

This offer is made to those who are suffering from bad skin and are earnestly interested in enjoying a clearer—smoother—healthier-looking skin again.

To YOU we offer the fruits of our search for a formula, the best that science has developed for attacking common skin problems. Our experience has convinced us that the SEBASOL method is without equal in overcoming externally caused acne and pimples. We have therefore come to a decision—unprecedented, so far as we know, of taking all the risk ourselves.

YOU GET DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK

We believe the SEBASOL method of skin care is the greatest aid that has ever been offered to those interested in avoiding the misery of a bad skin. We can and do promise that after a 30-day trial you must see and enjoy a remarkable difference in your skin or we guarantee to refund not only the price you pay—but DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK.

We know we could not make this offer unless the SEBASOL complete treatment is all we say it is.

You want the clearest, smoothest and healthiest skin. That is your birthright. Study our guarantee. We take all the risk. You have the protection of DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK.

Sebasol Method Supported By Diverse Medical Opinions

Leading medical authorities differ on the importance of various contributing factors to externally caused acne and pimples.

These factors are: diet, vitamin deficiency, personal hygiene, occupational exposures and postural habits.

The Sebasol method recognizes the importance of all these contributing factors and each of them is an integral part of the Sebasol treatment.

The Sebasol method is not designed to relieve all skin disturbances, and is not prescribed to treat individual cases due to systemic causes. But, to our knowledge, the Sebasol method is the only complete treatment of its type offered to sufferers of common skin maladies. Until new facts are discovered, there is nothing known to science which can do more for the relief of bad skin.

ACT NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

Neglect of acne can result in permanent scarring of your skin so act now! Take the first step—now—toward the good skin you desire. Fill out the coupon and mail—*today*—for a full 30-day supply. Price $3.00, only 10¢ a day. Isn't your skin worth the best?

Guarantee

This written guarantee entitles you not only to the return of the price paid for the Sebasol complete treatment but DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK unless you actually see and enjoy a remarkable improvement in your skin condition. The test is at our risk. All you do is return the unused portion of the treatment if not completely satisfied.

Comate Laboratories Inc.

COMATE LABORATORIES INC., Dept. 11M
1432 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y.

Please rush at once the complete Sebasol skin treatment (30 days' supply) in plain wrapper. I must be completely satisfied with the results of the treatment or you GUARANTEE DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of the unused portion.

☐ Enclosed find $3.00 (Cash, Check, Money Order)
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman $3.00 plus postal charges.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone ____ State _____

APO, FPO, Canada and Foreign, add 25 cents. No. C.O.D.

KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS WITH WARD'S FORMULA

NOTHING, *Absolutely nothing known to Science can do more to*

SAVE YOUR HAIR

SCALP ITCH
FALLING HAIR
DANDRUFF
HEAD ODORS
Proof!
We get letters like these every day from grateful men and women all over the world

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but *all four* types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

ENJOY THESE 5 BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY

1. Kills these 4 types of germs that retard normal hair growth—*on contact*
2. Removes ugly infectious dandruff—*fast*
3. Brings hair-nourishing blood to scalp—*quickly*
4. Stops annoying scalp itch and burn—*instantly*
5. Starts wonderful self-massaging action—*within 3 seconds*

Once you're bald, that's *it*, friends! There's nothing you can do. Your hair is gone forever. So are your chances of getting it back. But Ward's Formula, used as directed, keeps your sick scalp free of itchy dandruff, seborrhea, and stops the hair loss they cause. Almost at once your hair looks thicker, more attractive and alive.

We don't ask you to believe *us*. Thousands of men and women—first skeptical just as you are—have *proved* what we say. Read *their* grateful letters. Study the guarantee—it's *better* than a free trial! Then try Ward's Formula at *our* risk. Use it for only 10 short days. You must enjoy *all* the benefits we claim—or we return not only the price you pay—but DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK. You be the judge! **Ward Laboratories, Inc., 1420 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y.**

TO SAVE YOUR HAIR ACT NOW

Send coupon today for 10-day offer. Send No Money

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the *most* help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no *dandruff!* *W. T. W., Parrole, Cal.*

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

Guarantee

This written guarantee entitles you not only to return of price paid for Ward's Formula, but Double Your Money Back unless you actually SEE, FEEL and ENJOY all benefits herein claimed in only ten days. The test is at our risk. All you do is return unused portion or the empty bottle unless completely satisfied.

SEAL

Ward Laboratories, Inc.

ACT TODAY or YOU MAY BE TOO LATE!

Ward Laboratories, Inc.
1420 Broadway, Dept. 81a New York 18, N.Y.

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I will pay postman two dollars plus postage. I must be completely satisfied within 10 days, or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ Check here if you enclose $2.00 with order, and we will pay postage. Same refund offer holds, of course. *APO, FPO, Canada & Foreign add 50c, no C.O.D.s.*

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

PLAY PIANO THE FIRST DAY.. OR DON'T PAY!

Here's Your Chance to BE POPULAR!

I'M CERTAINLY MISSING A LOT OF FUN, AND DATES, TOO. IF I COULD ONLY PLAY THE PIANO THE WAY BETTY DOES. 'WONDER HOW SHE LEARNED SO FAST? I'LL ASK HER THE FIRST CHANCE I GET.

MARY, I NEVER TOOK A LESSON IN MY LIFE - BUT NOW I CAN PLAY WELL, THANKS TO THE AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR AND THE DEAN ROSS SIMPLE ABC METHOD. YOU OUGHT TO TRY IT!
IF IT'S AS EASY AS YOU SAY AND IT ONLY COSTS $1.98 I'LL SEND FOR IT RIGHT AWAY!

"I learned to play a song in 10 minutes." —A.C.C., Washington

"Even if one never played a note it is easy." —C.G.H., New Hampshire

"Now I can play sheet music beautifully." —E.S., New York

Hundreds of thankful, enthusiastic letters like these are in our files.

New, PATENTED AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR Guides Your Fingers

YOU, too, can play piano with BOTH hands, in no time at all! Thousands have learned to play this fast, easy way. With the amazing, new invention, the AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR there's really nothing to it. Before long you're playing songs everyone enjoys . . . from Hit Parade numbers and hymns to beautiful old ballads.

This is no trick method. You actually learn to read and play any sheet music. And, the patented AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR guides your fingers every note of the way. No scales, no exercises, no dreary practicing. You actually play the minute you sit down at the piano. You gain ease, assurance and a professional style as you go through the 30 lessons and 40 songs.

Instead of paying the studio charge of $5 a lesson, you can enjoy the 30 lessons, $150 worth, in the privacy of your home for just $1.98. The Dean Ross Piano Course can open up a whole new world of happiness. Now you can be the "hit" of every party . . . the center of attraction wherever you go. Don't delay another minute, mail the FREE-TRIAL Coupon NOW!

NO SCALES!
NO EXERCISES!
YOU PLAY INSTANTLY!

PATENT No. 2,473,222

Complete Course only $1.98 — Including the PATENTED AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR
No Extras — SEND NO MONEY!

You have 10 full days to prove to yourself the value of the Dean Ross Piano method. When the complete course with its 30 clearly illustrated lessons (worth $150 at the studio) and 40 favorite songs, together with the patented AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR is delivered, pay postman just $1.98 plus postage. Try the course for 10 days with the understanding that you must learn to play with both hands or your full purchase price will be refunded at once. The patented AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR is yours to keep in any event. You have nothing to lose . . . and popularity and fun to gain, so mail coupon today!

DEAN ROSS PIANO STUDIOS INC., Dept. 1803
45 West 45th Street • New York 19, N. Y.

10-Day FREE TRIAL COUPON — Mail Today!

DEAN ROSS PIANO STUDIOS, INC., Dept. 1803
45 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

Send the PATENTED AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR with the complete Dean Ross Piano Course consisting of 30 illustrated lessons and 40 popular songs. On delivery, will pay postman only $1.98 plus postage. If not completely thrilled, I may return the Course in 10 days for immediate refund of purchase price. The PATENTED AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR is mine to keep.

Name _____
(Please Print)

Address _____

City & Zone _____ State _____

☐ *SAVE MONEY! Enclose $1.98 and we pay postage. Same Refund Guarantee.*

★ ★ GET YOUR PRIZE ★ ★

HEY FELLOWS! GET DAISY'S BIG COWBOY CARBINE AND GET IN ON THE FUN.
THIS DANDY, EASY-TO-USE CAMERA TAKES CLEAR, SHARP PICTURES
THESE BIG 3-POWER BINOCULARS ARE JUST RIGHT FOR SPORTS, HIKES AND NATURE STUDY.
MY BIG GUITAR IS A MIGHTY FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

DAISY'S RED RYDER COWBOY CARBINE

Looks, feels, handles like a Western Saddle Gun. A fast shooting 1000 shot Air Rifle. Sell one order plus $2.00.

DICK TRACY CAMERA

A fine camera complete with carrying case. Sell only one order of American Seeds.

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3-POWER BINOCULARS. Matched lenses. Special shoulder strap. Sell one order of American Seeds.

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Full size Guitar with delightful, mellow tone. Has Gene Autry's signature. Sell one order plus $5.00.

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Your choice of Bride or Bridesmaid Doll. Movable eyes. Sell one order of Seeds.

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Films of Gene Autry, Hopalong Cassidy and Woody Woodpecker, included with each set. Sell one order plus $5.00.

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Gold cap pistol puffs smoke. All leather holster and belt. Sell one order.

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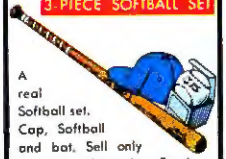
Professional Type Junior Archery Set

Made by Ben Pearson for boys and girls, includes lemonwood bow, arm guard, instructions. Sell one order of Seeds.

CINDERELLA WRIST WATCH

Comes packed in beautiful glass slipper. A dainty guaranteed watch for girls. Sell one order plus $3.00.

3-PIECE SOFTBALL SET



A real Softball set. Cap, Softball and bat. Sell only one order of American Seeds.

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Chemistry Set, Fishing Tackle, Roy Rogers Watch, Croquet Set, Table Tennis, Movie Projector, Baseball Gloves, Jewelry, Roller Skates, Walkie Talkie, Electric Phonograph, Overnight Case.

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Please send the BIG PRIZE BOOK and 40 packs of Vegetable and Flower Seeds. I will resell them at 10¢ each, send you the money promptly, and get my prize.

My choice of prize is _____

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State _____

City _____